

When I studied my A-B-C's
And learned arithmetic,
I also learned in public school
What makes America tick:
The kid in front
And the kid behind
And the kid across the aisle,
The Italian kid
And the Polish kid
And the girl with the Irish smile,
The colored kid
And the Spanish kid
And the Russian kid my size,

The Jewish kid
And the Grecian kid
And the girl with the Chinese eyes –
We were a regular Noah's ark,
Every race beneath the sun
But our motto for graduation was:
One for All and All for One!
The kid in front
And the kid behind
And the kid across from me –
Just American kids together
The kids in school with me.

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

