

It's time to speak up...

*Black lives matter – that's the message that's the fight,
The fight against racism and not against white,
It's a movement with a message that is centuries old,
So, if you stand against injustice, speak up and be bold.*

*We've seen everybody come together, stay at home and work together
Fighting against a virus that we can't even see,
Now we face another virus – one called racism
And silence isn't going to change lives or protect you and me.*

*8 minutes, 46 seconds – can you believe?
George Floyd was held down saying he couldn't breathe.
It's time to stand up, time to put your hands up,
Time to understand love's the answer and enough is enough.*

*People fear for their lives through the shade that we're painted,
Can you see the picture has been tainted?
The hashtag does not accuse you or exclude you,
Saying all lives matter is only seeing what you choose to.*

*If you don't have a clue it's like crashing a stranger's funeral,
And screaming, "Yeah I lost someone too!"
The inequity, complexity, the pain and the perplexity,
The gunning and running and trying the numbing the pain, the sheer immensity,*

*We're meant to be in this together,
So speak up for your brothers, for your sisters, for sons and daughters from the slaughters,
Born to a black mother and my father was white,
My future children will be black and continue the fight,*

*Do something, say something, yeah we all have a voice,
And in the colour of our skin, none of us had a choice.
You can continue to divide but the truth will remain,
Underneath our skin - we all bleed the same.*

Your task: Watch the rap, 'It's Time to Speak Up', that Fleur East performed last week live on radio and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think the song mentions that the fight isn't against white?
2. Why does the song talk about the fight being '**centuries old**'?
3. '**Now we face another virus – one called racism.**' What is the meaning of this line?
4. Find two examples of rhetorical questions being used. Why do you think Fleur East chose to use rhetorical questions?
5. Can you think of a synonym for the word **tainted**? Why has this word been chosen?
6. '**Do something, say something, yeah we all have a voice.**' Who is this line aimed at?
7. '**Underneath our skin - we all bleed the same.**' Why did East choose to use the word 'bleed' here? What effect does this have?
8. What is your favourite part of the rap and why?

Challenge: Thinking about everything we have learnt about the Black Lives Matter movement this week and write your own rap verse.