

**The Painted Wall**  
**By Mikaela Pereira**

Black paint  
Unkind words  
Scrawled on the brick wall  
Painted for all to see  
Messages like these are common  
Written or sometimes said  
She cries  
Upset after seeing these harsh words  
Unable to sleep  
Shaken by this new, unwelcomed experience  
She is left confused  
Struggling to make a living  
Feeling like an outsider  
But the community stands behind her  
Supporting her like the brick wall  
Not an outsider, but an insider  
Injustice to one of their own  
A member of their community  
Shock and disappointment felt  
It happens not just to one, but all  
Strangers show their support  
Reminding her they are stronger together  
They are a brick wall  
Their kindness raises her spirits  
Uplifting messages  
A flower  
A smile  
Showing love to an innocent victim  
A victim of a hateful act  
A can of paint  
A brush in hand  
Removing those hateful words  
A sign they are together  
A sign of hope  
Because they are a community  
Stronger together  
Like the freshly painted wall