

## Phillis Wheatley Peters: The Color of You

You are the color of light  
Still burning bright.  
There are other colors, too  
Telling the story of you:  
You are sable skin  
Wrapped in African splendor.  
You are the hellish haze  
Of a slave ship hold.  
You are red blood spilled  
Across Boston streets.  
You are the silver tales  
Of Greek and Roman history.  
You are the color of pain,  
Of faith, and injustice.  
You are the color of a poet,  
an activist, a mother, and a friend.  
You are the color of a life  
Lived in chains with a mind  
That ran free.  
You are the color of light  
Blazing against ignorance.  
You are the light that you wrote by,  
the light that you read by.  
Phillis Wheatley,  
We may never know your true name  
But we know you.  
You are the color of light  
Still burning bright.

You wrote of heroes  
Of classical and colonial times.  
We write of you,  
A woman for all times,  
Still burning bright.  
You are the color of light.

***Poem by Mona Voelkel***



Photo: Sarah Ruffing Robbins