

## **Lori McKenna "Ruby's Shoes"**

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Ruby's shoes would take her  
A mile or so to school every day  
Where the white people hated her  
They'd scream and hold signs and tell her to go away

But Ruby's will was stronger  
Than the bigots with the signs could ever know  
She stopped every morning on the corner  
And prayed that someday the pain would go

And she'd stop and she'd pray  
That all the hatred would go away  
She was only six years old but she knew  
Walk a mile in Ruby's shoes

Ruby sat alone in the classroom  
She never dreamed the other children wouldn't come  
They hated her for the color of her skin  
Well color is such an amazing illusion

She'd stop and she'd pray  
That all the hatred would go away  
She was only six years old but she knew  
Walk a mile in Ruby's shoes

Now Ruby knew about Dorothy  
And the ruby shoes that she wore  
She wondered about Oz sometimes

Well, well no other child ever walked her shoes before

And she'd stop and she'd pray  
That all the hatred would go away  
She was only six years old but she knew  
Walk a mile in Ruby's shoes

Ruby, if birds can always fly  
Why oh why can't you and I?

Ruby's shoes would take her  
A mile or so to school every day  
Where the white people hated her

They'd scream and hold signs and tell her to go away

And she'd stop and she'd pray  
That all the hatred would go away  
She'd stop and she'd pray  
That no other children would be raised this way  
Ruby's shoes

If birds can fly  
Then why oh why  
If birds can fly then why oh why can't I

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