

“Still, I Rise”

**An Our Place group poem inspired by Maya Angelou
February 2022**

People are upset about COVID-19 because it's scary. But we are brave and helpful, so still, I rise. When I am working at my job, some people are mean. Some people get in my space. But I am open-minded, so I still rise.

MARY

Choosing a schedule was difficult.
I got help from a friend and picked out my classes for Spring Session.
Still, I rise.

CHIP

Colors are beautiful and still I rise.
Our Place is beautiful and still I rise.
Wearing my mask is hard and still I rise.

BELLA

Still, I rise,
Above the clouds,
Against the odds.
No matter what obstacles are placed in my path,
I shall overcome the relentless tide of challenges.
Like a virus, rising and falling with the waves.
Like friends arriving and leaving, new and old, flowing with the times.
Yet I still persevere.

Still, I rise.

I rise.

I rise.

SEAN

Sometimes the news is sad, but still, I rise.
I learn about Black History and am inspired, so still I rise.
Sometimes people are upset, but I help them by being funny, so still I rise.
Bad things are happening around our country, but I stay positive and still I rise.

TRAVIS

I am different, I change like colors in the morning when I wake up. Still, I rise.
People need help and I am kind, so still, I rise.
I leave behind sadness and bring forward my past, and still, I rise.
I bring gifts to others like my laugh and my writing, still I rise.

MATT C.

I have overcome my seizures. I was one year old when I lost my balance and my body started shaking, but still, I rise.

It was hard for me to understand what was happening. I was born with it. Still, I rise.

We tried so many doctors, but no one knew how to help. Still, I rise

My mom saw me reading a story in sign language. My reading skills progressed. Still, I rise.

I love to be around people who understand me. It bothers me that people don't want to talk about it. Still, I rise.

It is still scary for me, still, I rise.

KATIE L.

Sometimes people are not nice to me, but still, I rise.

People told me I would not be able to build with Lego bricks, but still I build and still I rise.

DEREK

It was hard for me to color. Now it's fun. I am proud. Still, I rise.

WES

It was hard for me to talk. Now I talk with friends. I feel good. All right! I love Clay. Well done. Still, I rise.

CLAY

My legacy may go down in history with your spiteful and circuitous lies. Yet, you continue to drag me down into the ground but still, like dust I'll rise.

Yet, does my swag unsettle you? Why are you plagued with darkness? "Because I walk with confidence and pride like I am shining in my own pursuit of happiness.

I am a descendant of slaves that have set the foundation for generations to come before me. In spite of, obstacles and uncertainty. I rise above skeptics and doubters in the world.

Lastly, with challenges and difficult situations, we will rise above! We will rise above! We will rise above once again.

STERLING

It was hard for me to make friends. Now I feel happy every day. It's good to be me. Still, I rise.
WOODY

I am able to work without a job coach
I didn't ever think I would be able to work without one, but now I do
It makes me feel better about myself
It makes me feel proud of myself.
Still, I rise.
LEVI

Diamonds in the sky and still I rise.
I had to wake up this morning with the American flag and still I rise.
The sunflower grows and still I rise.
PATRICK

Though I am judged by many for many reasons, still I rise knowing I am loved by many.
Though I have been a victim, still I rise.
Life brings me down and still I rise.
I have been bullied, still, I rise.
I rise up though I have seen adversity, still, I rise, I rise, I rise, I rise.
DAN

Still, I rise with the challenges every day that I am dealing with
Dealing with my arthritis is something I cannot live with forever and I would like the pain to go away so I can be able to walk as I used to, Still I rise.
I want no pain at all in my knee so I can get back to the way I was before the pain, free. Still, I rise.
FRANK