

# Flowers Are Red

Harry Chapin

The little boy went first day of school  
He got some crayons and he started to draw  
He put colors all over the paper  
For colors was what he saw And the teacher said, "What you doin' young man?"  
"I'm paintin' flowers" he said  
She said, "It's not the time for art young man  
And anyway flowers are green and red""There's a time for everything young man  
And a way it should be done  
You've got to show concern for everyone else  
For you're not the only one" And she said, "Flowers are red young man  
And green leaves are green  
There's no need to see flowers any other way  
Than they way they always have been seen" But the little boy said  
"There are so many colors in the rainbow  
So many colors in the morning sun  
So many colors in the flower and I see every one" Well the teacher said, "You're sassy  
There's ways that things should be  
And you'll paint flowers the way they are  
So repeat after me" And she said, "Flowers are red, young man  
And green leaves are green  
There's no need to see flowers any other way  
Than they way they always have been seen" But the little boy said  
"There are so many colors in the rainbow  
So many colors in the morning sun  
So many colors in the flower and I see every one" The teacher put him in a corner  
She said, "It's for your own good  
And you won't come out 'til you get it right  
And are responding like you should" Well finally he got lonely  
Frightened thoughts filled his head  
And he went up to the teacher  
And this is what he said And he said  
"Flowers are red, and green leaves are green  
There's no need to see flowers any other way  
Than the way they always have been seen" Time went by like it always does  
And they moved to another town  
And the little boy went to another school  
And this is what he found The teacher there was smilin'  
She said, "Painting should be fun  
And there are so many colors in a flower

So let's use every one" But that little boy painted flowers  
In neat rows of green and red  
And when the teacher asked him why  
This is what he said And he said  
"Flowers are red, and green leaves are green  
There's no need to see flowers any other way  
Than the way they always have been"

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