

## Red Eyes

This is you  
on 24<sup>th</sup> n Mission  
Claiming 1-- 4 North side Frisco  
Red belt hanging out yo baggy pants  
Red rag on yo forehead

This is you  
making drive by's  
killing people  
destroying families  
fighting for a color that belongs to nobody  
only represents blood.

This is you  
Getting high  
with your red eyes  
you defending the block  
that's not yours neither mine's,  
running away from the cops  
after you committed a crime.

This is you  
making your mom cry  
every night every time you came home late,  
worried if she would see you again.

This is you  
I cried red tears  
You said you loved me,  
But still your primary interest  
was to defend your click  
I was there for you in thin and thick.

This is you  
Not going to school  
and giving a fuck about education  
you preferred what you learn on streets,  
killing, robbing, stabbing, drinking, smoking,  
treating your gang members as family  
Family as strangers.

This is all you  
known as the tough guy  
that never got beat up  
and ruled his own block.

This is you  
I'm crying red tears,  
Your eyes will never see my face again,  
And never feel my hands sweat  
Your friends ain't around  
I see your mom  
wanting to lay down with you  
candles burned  
Flowers delivered  
you're laying still

This is you.

*Paola Gonzalez  
Mandela High School  
Third Place Winner, 2006*

