

## Paint It Black

Gil Scott-Heron

Picture a man of nearly thirty  
Who seems twice as old with clothes torn and dirty  
Give him a job shining shoes  
Or cleaning out toilets with bus station crews  
Give him six children with nothing to eat  
Expose them to life on a ghetto street  
Tie an old rag around his wife's head  
And have her pregnant and lying in bed  
Stuff them all in a Harlem house  
And then tell them how bad things are down South.