

## Silence the Violence Lynn Aptman

A child was playing bury the doll
In her town in the USA.
That child lay dying outside her front door
In our town in the USA.
She was caught in a cross-fire in Liberty Square;
Across from a garbage dump that child lived there.
What can we do; what can we say
To silence the violence?
We must silence the violence.

We open our newspapers; what do we read
In our towns in the USA?
Violence in headlines just makes us despair
In our towns in the USA.
Yet we live in our neighborhoods - green all around.
We don't look, we don't see other parts of our town.
What can we do; what can we say
To silence the violence?
We must silence the violence.

The power of one is a marvelous thing
To cause change in the USA.
We can remake our world one step at a time
In our town in the USA.
People of conscience are morally bound
To strive for the safety of all.
That's what we can do; that's what we can say
To silence the violence.
We must silence the violence.

Children are entitled to live grow and thrive
In their towns in the USA.

To live free from violence at home, school and play
In their towns in the USA.

If we all join together - well you do the math.
It's a calculus of change for a positive path.

That's what we must do; that's what we must say
To silence the violence.

We must silence the violence!

©Lynn Aptman 2007

Ms. Aptman wishes to acknowledge that this song was inspired by a speech given by Leonard Pitts Jr. on September 22, 2006, at the inaugural Silence the Violence symposium sponsored by The Melissa Institute.

