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## BOOKS DENIED, WISDOM DIED

by: JEFFREY B. MACABARE

In quiet towns where silence speaks,  
The school bell rings, but learning is weak.  
Chalk on board, but minds unsure,  
Letters blur, the roots impure.

They write their names but read no more,  
Lost in signs outside the store.  
Forms unsigned, their voices hushed,  
Dreams deferred and visions crushed.

A diploma held with prideful grace,  
But comprehension hides its face.  
They pass the grade, yet miss the light,  
Of meaning deep and reading right.

Libraries locked, or never there,  
Where books grow old in the humid air.  
Teachers are tired, with tools too few,  
And promises that never grew.

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# INSTABRIGHT e-GAZETTE

ISSN: 2704-3010

Volume VII, Issue I

August 2025

Available online at <https://www.instabrightgazette.com>



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How can a child read the stars above?

If no one taught the words of love?

How can they count or understand?

When does knowledge slip like grains of sand?

A nation rich in heart and land,

Yet many fail to read what's planned.

From the city edge to the mountainside,

Books were denied, and wisdom died.

So, let the pages now unfold,

With ink that's brave and lessons bold.

To lift the minds, to clear the way—

A literate dawn, a brighter day.

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