

Opal Palmer Adisa

MY SCHOOL'S VOICE



an iron gavel
with a colonial agenda
smashes my fingers
canes my legs
and makes me stand
in the corner
wearing the dunce cap

it keeps insisting
my people and i
are inconsequential
we should be grateful
for being enslaving

its lessons
privilege
snow in the tropics
mozart over marley
and offers cucumber
sandwiches
as bribe
to discard patty