


EXCEL [3] Verse

My Hood

by Linda Oatman High

The **hood**
is not good.

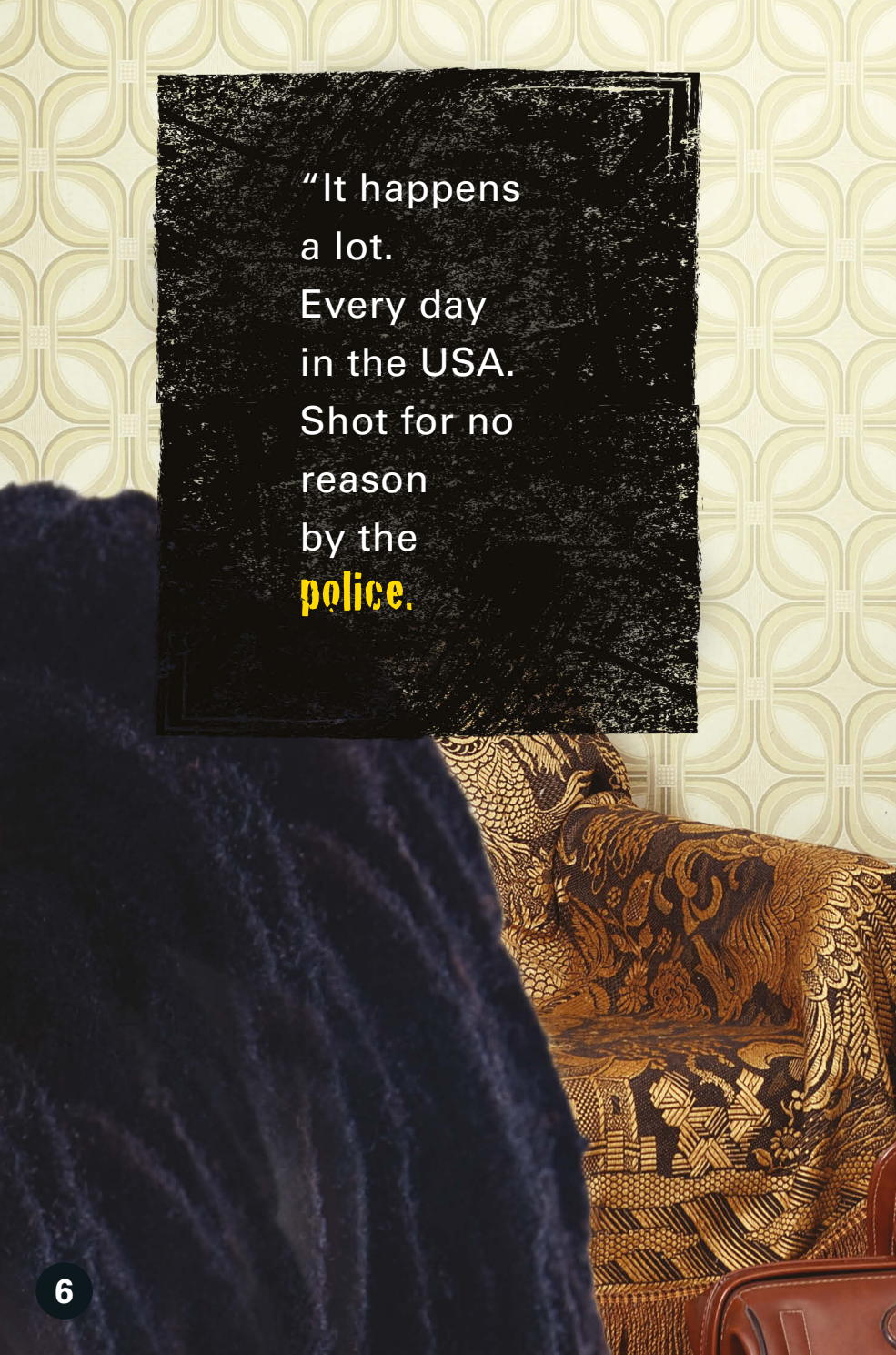


A person wearing a dark grey hoodie is seen from behind, looking at a wall covered in graffiti. The graffiti includes large red and orange tags, and some black and white spray paint. The wall appears to be made of concrete or stone, with some graffiti on the lower part of the wall. The person's head is visible on the right side of the frame.

I should
not wear
my hoodie
out in town.




This is what
my mom
keeps saying.
"Black boys
get shot," she
says.

A photograph of a person's back, seen from behind, wearing a dark blue or black textured sweater. They are sitting on a patterned armchair with a gold and brown geometric design. The background wall has a repeating pattern of interlocking circles in a light beige color. A large, dark, textured rectangular area is superimposed over the upper part of the image, containing white and yellow text.


"It happens
a lot.
Every day
in the USA.
Shot for no
reason
by the
police.



"I do not need
to see your name
on TV.
'Tyrone Lee Jones, 16.
Shot on Green Street.' "

A close-up photograph of a young Black man wearing a grey hoodie. His eyes are closed, and he has a somber expression. He is holding a black rectangular sign with both hands in front of his chest. The sign has white text that reads: "I sigh. Roll my eyes. Pull up my hood." The background is a blurred, high-contrast image of green and yellow, possibly foliage or a city street.

I sigh.
Roll my eyes.
Pull up
my hood.



"No way," says Mom.
"Not a good choice.
Don't I have a voice?
Makes you look
like a **thug.**"

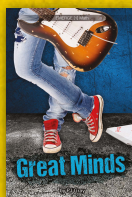
TERL BOOSTERS



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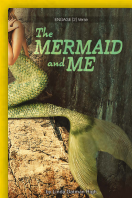
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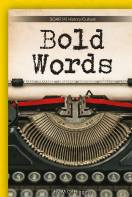
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