

*My Flag, by Marilyn Peretti of Glen Ellyn, IL,
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At the mic on the sidewalk
some kids say *justice*
is the meaning of the Fourth,
some say *fireworks*,
some say *cookouts*,
but some say *justice*.

Did they mean *fairness*,
decency, *moral rightness*,
equity, *abiding by law*?
Is this taught to children now?
Fourth of July means *justice*?

Maybe these wise children know
that the Fourth does not mean
burning churches of black folks,
battering a man in a police van,
giving up on finding prison escapees,
denying the poor health insurance,
or shooting pray-ers inside a church.

I wave my American flag
for what the children have learned.