

Hoodie

January Gill O'Neil

A gray hoodie will not protect my son
from rain, from the New England cold.

I see the partial eclipse of his face
as his head sinks into the half-dark

and shades his eyes. Even in our
quiet suburb with its unlocked doors,

I fear for his safety—the darkest child
on our street in the empire of blocks.

Sometimes I don't know who he is anymore
traveling the back roads between boy and man.

He strides a deep stride, pounds his basketball
into wet pavement. Will he take his shot

or is he waiting for the open-mouthed
orange rim to take a chance on him? I sing

his name to the night, ask for safe passage
from this borrowed body into the next

and wonder who could mistake him
for anything but good.

My Adidas

Run-D.M.C.

My Adidas
Walk through concert doors
And roam all over coliseum floors
I stepped on stage, at Live Aid
All the people gave an applause that
paid
And out of speakers I did speak
I wore my sneakers but I'm not a sneak
My Adidas cut the sand of a foreign land
With mic in hand I cold took command
My Adidas and me both askin
We make a good team my Adidas and
me
We get around together, rhyme forever
And we won't be mad when worn in bad
weather
My Adidas
My Adidas
My Adidas
Standin on 2 Fifth St.
Funky fresh and yes cold on my feet
With no shoe string in em, I did not win
em
I bought em off the Ave with the tags still
in em
I like to sport em that's why I bought em
A sucker tried to steal em so I caught
em and I thwart em
And I walk down the street and I bop to
the beat
With Lee on my legs and Adidas on my
feet
And now I just standin' here shooting the
gif
Me and D and my Adidas standing on 2
Fifth
My Adidas
My Adidas
Now
Me and my Adidas do the illest things
We like to stomp out pimps with
diamond rings
We slay all suckers who perpetrate
And lay down law from state to state

We travel on gravel, dirt road or street
I wear my Adidas when I rock the beat
On stage front page every show I go
It's Adidas on my feet high top or low
My Adidas
My Adidas
Now the Adidas I possess for one man
is rare
Myself homeboy got fifty pair
Got blue and black cause I like to chill
And yellow and green when it's time to
get ill
Got a pair that I wear when I'm playin'
ball
With the heal inside make me ten feet
tall
My Adidas only bring good news
And they are not used as selling shoes
They're black and white, white with
black stripe
The ones I like to wear when I rock the
mic
On the strength of our famous university
We took the beat from the street and put
it on TV
My Adidas are seen on the movie
screen
Hollywood knows we're good if you
know what I mean
We started in the alley, now we chill in
Cali
And I won't trade my Adidas for a ??
My Adidas