The title of this class is “Racial Discovery”, but I have discovered more than what I assumed when signing up for the class. When my discussion group meets we talk about things that happened in our week that have significance with race, our opinions on things happening in the world, and a thought that our weekly reading encouraged. Being a psychology major I love to hear about studies, especially those involving children; as children are fresh-minded and give new perspective to subjects an adult may find dull. Our teacher’s assistant in the class shared with us [a study](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6gi2T0ZdKVc) she had encountered on children and racial grouping. A woman named Jane Elliot was a school teacher in a small, rural elementary school in a part of the state where her classroom demographics were all white. She was teaching a group of students when she discovered that Martin Luther King Jr. was killed, and she thought to herself, “When is enough, enough?”

That very day Jane Elliot decided she would take her students on a journey of racial injustice. Monday the classroom instruction continued as any other normal week would, and on Tuesday a new set of rules were shared. Jane had only white children in her classroom, she then decided to divide her students using something like skin color, the color of her student’s eyes. On this Tuesday Jane began the school day asking her students what they thought of black people, after these elementary aged students described black people in a horrid view, she shared the rules. Students who had blue colored eyes were better, just because they had blue eyes. Blue-eyed students got more recess time, while brown-eyed students had to stand against the wall during the free time.

On the following day, Wednesday, the rules were reversed. Brown-eyed students were now superior to blue-eyed students. Brown-eyed students now got more recess time and the blue-eyed students had to stand against the wall. During these color-coated days it was stated that the superior group was smarter, worked faster, and was overall better than the opposite group.

During the recess time on both days the experiment was practiced Jane spoke to the inferior students while they stood against the wall. Miss. Elliot would ask the students how they felt, if they thought the way they were being treated was considered fair, or if they enjoyed being put down because of how they looked. The student’s responses were what you would assume, no student enjoyed being inferior to the other students, and across the board the students agreed that when they were being viewed as inferior to the other students, it was not fair.

After viewing this documentary, I understood a bit more about how silly racism is. Racist views are placed upon people who are different just because they look different, never mind if they present actions that would prove otherwise. When Jane Elliot used eye color to separate her students instead of skin it gave me the impression of insecurity. For people of a human race to say, for instance, that because I have naturally blonde hair I am superior to all those who have naturally brown hair. This statement is utterly ridiculous for viewing people. The color of your hair has nothing to do with how smart you are, how capable you are, or whether you should be allowed to vote. If we can become like children and think simply-removing all the politics and opinions- we can see just how silly racist views are.

In our class, and in our group meetings I have learned that racism is in fact NOT DEAD, and is very much a factor people who are not white have to deal with. When considering whether you believe all men are equal, or even if you think racism is not as prevalent a problem to society anymore; please consider when you go to the grocery store the color of someone’s eyes. Does that make you feel you have a right to treat them differently than you would want to be treated?