

If You Asked

I'm good enough to learn your language
and I'll try to care about your country's history
Because you say I need to.
Did you know that my dad died in the war?
We think.

I'll learn about the digestive system
And then go home to cook dinner for my two little brothers
Because my mom works two jobs.
Did you want to listen to how my day is going?
I ate lunch alone.

For some reason the way I learned how to divide isn't okay.
So I'll relearn it, if you please answer my questions.
Did you know at home my mom was a nurse?
Here she cleans your hotel room.

I'm sorry that you feel insecure or a loss of control
When I speak my language.
It's just the only way I know how to share this great idea.
Or tell my friend about my birthday yesterday.
If you wanted, I could teach you how we say the word expression.

I know you think I know nothing.
It's true I don't know what to do with your magenta crayon
Or hold the scissors the way you think is right.
But I've lived for twelve years
In places you'll never go
And seen things you'll never see.
I know something about that.
If you asked, I could tell you some things I know.

I'll follow your rules and go by your schedule.
I'll secretly hope to be like you, and hate you, and show you respect
All at once.
I'll try to be who you want me to be.
But do you know who I am?
Do you care enough about me to say my name like my grandma does?

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