

we were freshmen when we thought they'd finally say goodbye to standardized tests

it was 2020 & everything changed making it even harder for most kids
// to sit in a classroom safely let alone fill in bubbles on answer
sheets // trying to reference information that they'd either missed
or our teachers had // no capacity to teach Iya & Baba called
it another plague // said something like it had happened before
but not in their lifetime // & not like this eventually all our
classes went online & people // were protesting the way anything had
ever been done before

September 2020 was going to be the beginning of our first year in
high school & we were hype // about our newfound independence
that allowed us to leave campus for lunch choose more
classes take courses we were curious about just for
fun but just before a virus changed everything // i was
already starting to discover what a scam it all was // wasn't surprised
that they rushed to get us back in overstuffed classrooms so our
parents // could go back to work because if our parents didn't
work achieveachieveachieve // how would there be enough
money for America to keep the rich filthy

what would this country be without forty-hour workweeks & how
would they // be able to teach us that we're nothing if we can't
constantly produce // there's no use // for any of us if we are
not bodies crowding classrooms // endless hands clamoring for our
teachers' approval // endless cubicles fighting over the next promotion
// people dying so we all can afford to live

all the commotion the internet exploding // with
information proving that what Iya & Baba call the hamster wheel
// is trash // we thought the paradigm shift serious talk
about reparations the idea of deserved rest for our parents &
later us // would last // but here we are three years later // back
to normal