

Composing

Poem

I had a poem in my head and
I thought I would write it down,
but halfway through I thought I knew what it was about.

Now stuck here staring down on paper and pen in hand...
I thought if I kept on writing it would come to me, again.

Was it a poem about my past? Or maybe some point of view?
With my memory failing me...
anguish is what this poem is putting me through.

Staring at a blank page...Wait!!!! It's not blank any more!
I wrote this poem while not thinking...
maybe I should not think anymore.

~ Juanita Baisden

“To The Top”

A play written by and starring Live Oaks ABLE students

Director: Marty

Producers: Donna & Scottye

ACT I: (scene – first day of GED/ABLE class)

Nervous wreck
Didn't know what to expect
Not sure if I was going to get it right
Scared
Tried it before
Knew teachers were good
Felt like a loser and failure
But so glad I came back
Will stay until I reach my goal
Very tired, not wanting to test
“Please, please come in, glad to see you here,”
The teacher said to calm my nerves
Butterflies in my stomach
Been made fun of all my life
Thought teachers would tell me I couldn't do this
Happy because I knew I was not turning back
Relieved because I knew life would be better
Anxious because I wanted to know it all now!
Questions – can they really help me?
Will they judge me?
Say I'm a loser, deadbeat?
Will it be like all the other places I tried?
God, please give me the strength to walk through that door!

ACT II: (scene – settling into class/gaining confidence)

Hard to get to class – working full time
But feel so much better about myself when I do
Gained confidence I didn't know I had
Learning something new everyday
Know if I try hard enough I will succeed
Feel so proud of myself

See the whole world opening up for grabs
I don't give up anymore like I used to
Leave my troubles outside the door
My teachers keep on top of me
I know I am not a failure now
My teachers believe in me
And now I believe in myself
I am off to a great start
Learning faster than when I was a teenager
Feeling more confident with each class
A lot of positive energy from the teachers and students
I feel so much better about myself
Gaining ability to work out problems on my own
Never thought I'd learn this much in so little time
I think I am getting it

ACT III: (scene – reaching goals)

I'm doing flips – I'm a gymnast
I'm loving what I've accomplished
A boulder has been lifted from my shoulders
Peeled away like an onion
The day I pass will be a new start for me
To move on to better things
The teachers believed in me
They let me learn things I was told I never could
I now love to read and write
I know my GED is around the corner
And that is something I thought would never happen
Sometimes I wanted to give up
But I have held on – it was worth it
The climb was worth the courage it took to take the first step
I never felt so proud of myself
I reached the top!

~ Live Oaks Group Project: Sara Arthon, Toni Garcia,
Denis Rust, Claudia Rust, Sharon Cromer, Karen Brown,
April Norvell, Mindy Blaney, Billy Wagner, Anthony Nichols, Steve Baird,
Crystal McKnight, Cody Hunley, Doug Rasnick, Jerry Tharp, Laura Meiers

Writing

Willingness to share a part of yourself

Requires discipline and originality

Immortalizes your thoughts

Transports you to places in your heart

Is sometimes a struggle

Never easy but always worthwhile

Gives you the opportunity to become an author

~ Group Project:

Gaius Birkis

Starlee Bowling

Iglal Kuku

Kevin Mitishin

One Special Pen

I have a heavy, yellow pen made of metal. I like it very much because it not only brought me luck on the graduate entrance examination, but it also recorded an important period in my life that was very hard. At that time, I was unhappy about many things in my life. I felt that it wasn't the life I wanted to have and I needed to make a drastic change. So I began to prepare for the graduate entrance exam. I used up lots of pencils doing all the exercises and then purchased the metal pen because of its durability. I did well on the exam and feel I owe it to that special pen, which always reminds me that luck depends on hard work.

~ *Benny Wang*

Learning English

Learning English is like a cup of coffee that we can smell from ten miles away. Before we can enjoy it, we have to take the journey.

Learning English feels like climbing a mountain. We have to struggle to get to the top.

Learning English looks like kids on the first day of school. We are so excited, yet nervous about the new experience.

Learning English sounds like electronic music. Sometimes it makes us feel good, but sometimes it makes us feel bad.

Learning English tastes like eating peanut butter. It's sticky, but we enjoy it every day.

Learning English is like running a marathon. We need strength, endurance, and perseverance.

~ Live Oaks Group Project:

Deniz Demircan

Lais Felix

Maria Giuliberti

Betty Krimmer

Yuan Hua Li

Sara Revilla

Fabiana Silva