

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

Garcia Snow

Abstract

"The Light at the End of the Tunnel" is a poem that is greatly inspired by my life story and the many stages I have gone through to reach this point in my life's journey. In addition to this poem telling the story of my life, it also focuses on how adult education has given me the opportunity to learn new tools and knowledge from the Appreciative Education class. I have implemented the Dream and Don't Settle phases to help guide this reflection of my life's journey. This poem illustrates how these Appreciative Education tools can and will influence my future as I walk toward that light at the end of the tunnel.

Keywords

Appreciative Education, Dream, Don't Settle, adult education

An island was all I knew, high in its mountains, staring at a sky so blue
It was me and my family there, a community of a hundred or more
Scattered around the range, we were always told to strive and never return
Always move forward and never look back is what they say, so I dreamed ahead
Down the mountains, I went into the cities where I worked until my body hurt
There were days when I wished to just lay in the dirt
Give into my pain and hurt; darkness surrounded me like a horrid cloak
But then I discovered that I was much more
I prayed and found myself north
In a new place with little to my name
I worked and worked, but slowly I could feel the return of the pain
But I ignored it and looked above, prayed, and stepped forward
I kept moving until I eventually met a man through a friend
We spoke every night, and in time, he became someone I could depend upon
I left the far north for the south, south close to home
We lived together, designed, and delivered a family of our own
In time the pain returned, with it the shadows of despair, and I knew I wanted more
So, I refused to settle and turned to scholarship and made it a part of me
I work and learn, raise children in the world and take care of a home
I push myself till I feel like all I have left are my bones
Haggard and drained with no recognition of my talents
But I take it in stride
I will make it to the end and stand before the world with pride
The pain gone, and the fear diminished
I'll be able to stand in the light with a smile and feel fully replenished.