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Mi Viejo

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Mi Viejo

Christian Sánchez

Apá

When I was younger, my connection with you was weak.

Pensaba que estábamos conectados solamente a través del fútbol.

I used to think that you saw me as a disappointment because of how you compared me to yourself when you were my age.

Ganadería y alimentación de los chivos temprano y cada día.

I slept till noon everyday.

Me llevabas a tu trabajo, “Para que aprendas cómo es trabajar sin educación.”

While we have always had tremendous love for each other nuestra relación cambió después de nuestro viaje a México.

I was able to understand you and where you came from more deeply and emotionally.

He aprendido a apreciar lo que has hecho y te quiero con todo mi ser.

You’re a humble, simple, and hardworking man.

Somos padre e hijo como la vida es pasión y tiempo.

Dad

Algunas cosas que me recuerdan de usted

Dirt-filled fingernails, rough hard-working hands covered with scars;

Carne asada con pimienta de limón;

The smell of cologne after you take a shower;

La Selección Nacional Mexicana de Fútbol;

Fútbol en general;

Tuxcueca;

Vicente Fernández, La Arrolladora Banda El Limón, y cumbia;

Horses, bulls, and rodeos;

Un rancho Mexicano;

“Sí, pos sí.” and, “No, pos no.”

Albercas, como las que ayudas construir;

Pinto Lake Park where you would play soccer when we were younger;

Tu jardín atrás de la casa;

I see myself slowly turning into you

pero no es malo,

porque te quiero,

mi viejo.

REFLECTION

The first time I started a freewrite, I was confused because I was used to writing to specific prompts that looked for a specific, correct answer. These freewrites were very liberating because there was no correct answer to the prompts. I thought to myself that I was going to become fed up with all of these freewrites throughout the year. As time progressed, I really enjoyed writing them because I learned things about myself that I didn't know were there.

The first time, I was interested in poetry was when my oldest sister invited my family and I to watch a performance organized by a club that she was in. This multicultural club was called Rainbow Theater and students produced plays and presented poetry on issues pertaining to identity and society. I really enjoyed the poetry during these performances, but I never thought to write poetry of my own. When writing these freewrites, I used the knowledge I gained from these performances to help me write.

After doing more freewrites, writing came naturally to me. I had no trouble expressing how I felt about the prompts. The prompts helped me learn about myself and how the experiences in my life have shaped who I am today. Although, I didn't mind writing down my responses to the prompts, I had trouble volunteering to share with my classmates about what I had written. I did not share once during class any of my writing. Some days I would share the freewrites I had written with my older sister who was also in the class. Having her in that class was a relief, because without her, I wouldn't have wanted to enroll in the class. I learned many new things about her after she shared her freewrites in class.

Overall, this course has made me feel more connected to myself, my family, and my culture. I now understand the important experiences in my life and how they have helped shape who I am today. It also made me realize how important my family is and made me appreciate them as well as my culture as a whole.