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## My Best Friend and I

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# My Best Friend and I

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## Zitlaly Macías

My relationship with literacy is very intimate. A point in my life when I became closer with literacy was when my father was incarcerated. I felt every letter I wrote to him signified a chunk of my life shared with him. At the time I was a freshman in high-school. I had a deep connection with my father, his sudden leaving made me feel empty. With the help of literacy I was able to fill in the gap. Through my letters I expressed myself in every possible way. Even when I wasn't writing to my father, I would write in my journal expressing my emotions. I viewed it as if it were a therapy for me.

Literacy and I became best friends. She knew everything intimate about me and that directed me to control my emotions by writing them on paper. She kept my relationship with my father going where we never lost touch. I'm so grateful that I have earned the gift to write and read because with it, I'm unstoppable.

### Reflection

Through my process of writing it wasn't easy expressing myself eloquently as well as sharing a piece of myself with the class. What encouraged me to do so were the meaningful memories I have engraved in my mind. They burned right through and left me scars, just memories that I could only express through literacy. This class has really taught me how to put my writing in action. Besides the great encouragement, I really felt heard and appreciated on what I expressed. It was hard choosing a specific freewrite to publish because I saw many that had potential, but overall I chose "My Best Friend and I." The reason I did this was because I have an emotional connection with it.

"My Best Friend and I" is about the importance of literacy to me. Before I had never really thought of those people who weren't privileged to have this ability. Unfortunately, my grandmother was

one of those people who couldn't read much and not write at all. Being able to have these abilities made me become very aware of how grateful I should be to have obtained that power. Though my grandmother couldn't read or write, this poem really hit me in the heart and made me think of a point in my life where I really put my skills to use.

Literacy became my best friend through my struggles, being able to express myself to someone was hard for me and it wasn't something I really wanted to do. The reason I didn't want to do so was because at the time I was going through a lot emotionally and I really didn't believe anyone could understand my situation. Literacy became a way to let everything I felt inside out, all my emotions drowning me were written in a journal that became my lifesaver. With my realization of utilizing this ability I became more comfortable doing so. Through this process I came up with "My Best Friend and I," and I was able to name Literacy as my best friend who knew every intimate part of me.

I know that there could possibly be someone out there feeling the same way I did and who could relate to my struggle of feeling that no one understands. Hopefully this poem is one that hits the heart and makes my audience think of a time when Literacy became a lifesaver to them as well. I hope they realize the importance of it, as well as its value because not everyone is given that gift.