

2017

## To You

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# To you

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## Anonymous

I don't remember you. The only reason I know what you look like is because grandma still has your portrait hanging over the fireplace. But you visit me in my dreams. Every time you do, the image of you holding my hand as we walk together lingers in my mind for days. I know you didn't mean to go so soon and it's okay. Although you haven't been able to accompany me on this journey we like to call life, you've been in my heart. You don't have to worry anymore. I'm safe when I sleep. I love you.

I think one day I'll paint that image. I'll make it really pretty and hang it over my own fireplace so that everyone can see what I see when you come to visit me. Ariel says I look like you more and more every time he sees me. I wouldn't know, but I'm glad I look like you. Tony has raised me well, with lots of love and compassion, like I know you would have. I'm in college now, but no matter how busy I get, I never forget you. I hope you're proud of me. You don't have to worry anymore. I'm safe when I sleep.

I love you.

## REFLECTION

The first time we were instructed to do a freewrite my brain went blank. I was so flustered and I couldn't even begin writing because I hadn't really done that in a while. Luckily for me though, I enjoy writing. I really enjoy finding words and phrases that capture what I'm feeling or trying to portray. So when I became aware that every day in class we would dedicate a certain amount of time to just that, I was excited!

The prompts we were given each time forced me to think not only about my own experiences but also about the Chicano experience. The instructor does a great job by building-up to the freewrites with background information or by personalizing the readings. The stage is then set for an amazing outburst of passion expressed with a pen and paper backed by knowledge of the history of our own lives and of our people. There were days when I liked the prompts and days when I kind of just wrote to write, but all in all, if it wasn't for the freewrites and having to reach into my bag of experiences, opinions and beliefs, I do not believe I would have fully grasped many of the common themes discussed in class about Chican@/Latin@ Lives. Most importantly, if it had not been for the freewrites, I don't believe that I would have made the multiple connections in relevant aspects of my own life.