

2016

## Christopher

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# Christopher

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## Cynthia Rojas

People ain't shit, little brother.  
Don't let anybody tell you what you can and can't do.  
You are your own man,  
with a mind and heart that work perfectly fine.

Siempre, ten fé en ti mismo.  
Nunca sientas la obligación de complacer a la gente que no valen la pena;  
La gente que solo te habla cuando les pega la gana;  
La gente que solo se mete contigo porque saben que eres simpático y no te gusta pelear.

Ten fé en ti mismo,  
a mandarlos a la chingada..  
Ten fé, hermanito.  
When you're down in the dirt like a defeated man,

Ten fé, that you will get up and brush it off.  
When you give it your all but receive no output,

Ten fé, that the effort is being recognized.  
When you are rejected and you feel like your heart is in pieces,

Ten fé, que el amor es real pero el momento no es el adecuado.  
When you are looked down upon by snobs and ignorant gringos,

Ten fé en ti mismo,  
And remind yourself that they ain't shit.  
Be proud of who you are and who you aren't.  
Disfruta la vida maravillosa que dios te ha dado.  
Nunca le tengas miedo al amor.  
Live life with compassion and curiosity,  
With empathy and awareness.

Pero sobre todo, vive con la fé que siempre tendrás algo bueno en tu vida.

Ten fé en ti mismo, porque yo siempre tendré fé en ti.

Ten fé en tu inteligencia y capacidad.

Ten fé en el amor y en la felicidad.

Ten fé en tu familia, ten fé en mi,

But most importantly,

Siempre ten fé en ti mismo.

Love,

your sister.

## Reflection

When we first started the writing prompts, I thought they were a cool and interactive way for the class to get to know each other by sharing some stories we usually don't talk about. Stories such as the significance of our names, our relationship to faith, and dreams we have. These prompts were inspired by what we were reading at the time like *The House on Mango Street*, *Bless me Ultima*, and *Under the Feet of Jesus*. I really enjoyed listening to my classmates' stories and knowing some of their experiences because, at times, I could relate to how they were feeling. It was especially comforting to know that some of their Latino/Hispanic traditions or ways of being strongly relate to mine.

My favorite prompts to write about were the relationship to faith and the importance of my name. The importance of my name made me reflect how it has shaped me to be the person I am today and on my life in general. On my relationship to faith, I chose to write a poem talking to my little brother who is a teenager at the moment. Although, I do not know what it is like to be a teenage boy in this day and age, I know that being a teenager sucks sometimes.

My brother is an important figure in my life and I try to be there for him as much as I can. Sometimes, I wanted to tell him everything I wish someone would have told me at his age and let him know that he must always have faith in himself. This poem is really personal and I wrote a lot of what I felt I needed to say in it. I wanted to talk to my brother in a language he would understand

me the most (Spanglish) so I played around with phrases and words in Spanish and in English.

To me, words in Spanish sound more sincere and loving and passionate so I wanted to make use of those words to send a message that sounds caring and that will be a life skill. I didn't hold back in using some words my mother would not approve me using but I kept it simple and to the point without getting away from the message I want to send across. Hopefully, when my brother reads this poem, he won't be embarrassed to hug me in public.