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Orbit

Natasha Swann

I move from the center to the abyss then to the margins.

I move from the margins to the center, then to the abyss.

As I move, my mind like water shapes the container that holds it.

I stay true to what has grounded me from the center, but open to what will define me as I orbit from the abyss to the margins.

I see some deficit, micro-racial aggressions, favoritism, even hate

Yet my being in the margin is enveloped with such sweet diversity that overshadows much of that deficit.

I teach my children to understand the space and place of the margins, but to embrace the diversity that encompasses the margins.

I move from center to the abyss, then to the margins.

Teach Me

Natasha Swann

Teach me the way I learn. I see color and vibrant images dancing on a page.

I see sadness and joy personified on a stage.

Teach me from where I hail

I don't always relate to the characters blue-eyed and pale

Teach me from where I existed

Integrate bits of my history in my story, much to where my black is listed.

Teach me how to live in my place

By imploring me to appreciate all diversity that dwell in my space.

Teach me, I am eager to learn.



Natasha Swann is an international doctoral student of literacy studies at the University of South Florida. Originally from the Bahamas, Ms. Swann is a wife and a mother of three girls. Moving away from The Bahamas to the United States has been both rewarding and challenging for her. She finds diversity refreshing, disappointing, yet alive and thirsty. She continues to open her heart to new experiences that this world of diversity has to offer. Her research interests are critical race theory, immigrant/international student literacy, and adolescent literacy.