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“More Than a Class (Poetry for Two Voices)”

By Sel Melvin

Teacher

[Day1]

Lord, help me to teach.

This is all new to me.

I am so scared.

Sel, you can do this.

I cannot fail.

[Day30]

The learning is slow.

I have more content to cover.

Please speed up.

[Day 60]

They're starting to hear me.

Student

Señor, ayúdame a aprender.

Todo esto es nuevo para mí

Estoy tan asustado.

Tengo que hacer esto.

No puedo fallar.

The class is too fast.

I don't think I will last.

Please slow down.

They are starting to see me.

They are opening up.

They are starting to relax.

Look at that smile. You've got this!

[Day90]

Today was a great day!

I'm getting better.

I'm learning Spanish.

I'm learning English.

Are you having fun, yet?

Si?

Yes!

[Day180]

It started out hard.

Oh, yes it did!

But we helped each other.

Yes, Teacher, we did!

We are more than a class now.

Yes, Mrs. Sel, we are!

We are family!





Sel Melvin is an educator for Horry County School in Conway, SC. They currently teach a GED reading and language arts class at Horry County School Adult Education Center in Myrtle Beach, SC but previously taught an ESL class for the same program. Sel graduated from Coastal Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education in 1997. They received a M.S. degree in Educational Administration in 2003 from Central Connecticut State University. Sel is currently pursuing ESOL certificate at Coastal Carolina University.