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“Pedagogy of Peace”

By Brooke Bianchi-Pennington

Pedagogy of Peace

Practicality demands every generation
Be dragged to their seat at the table
Broken and glued back together,
Unrecognizable.

The best we can do, we are told,
Is give everyone an equal shot
At wielding the tools of the oppressor
For themselves one day.

Lately, I've been feeling
That change is a top-down affair,
A trickle-down of power from the benevolent,
That education will always be
Preparation for the world as it is.

It seems I, too,
Have been dragged to my seat.
But as I look around,
It's not what I thought it was.

Why do too few of us
Tell the truth?
We pass on the pain as if
What we have is working.

This table is a flimsy figment,
Of a poor imagination.

But what if the only violence necessary
Is the dismantling?

What if the first lesson learned was not
Compliance for crumbs
But abundance?
What if we could stop
Clamoring for spots as if space is something
That can be owned?

I'm sitting across from you at this table now,
And I have nothing to tell you,
But that this table in front of you
Has never been real.



About Brooke Bianchi-Pennington

Brooke Bianchi-Pennington has been teaching high school English for over a decade, most of which has been at her current institution, Hardin Valley Academy. In 2019 she earned a Ph.D. from The University of Tennessee in Literacy Studies. Her research and writing interests continue to lie in the convergence of literacy, language, culture, and technology.

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