

# Read With Me

## CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL LITERACIES

The following literary works were presented at the "Read with me: Celebrating our Local Literacies" event held by Enletawa Journal on August 27, 2021. When discussing literacy, Freire gave us a look at the depth of the concept when he said, "If we think of education as an act of knowing, then reading has to do with knowing. The act of reading cannot be explained as merely reading words since every act of reading words implies a previous reading of the world and a subsequent rereading of the world" (1986, p. 18). Therefore, literacy is much more than the act of reading and writing words. It is the act of consciously reading the World. If literacy involves reading the World, then it also includes understanding our history and culture, and if possible, contributing to its negotiation and transformation. As Nieto-Gómez and Clavijo-Olarte (2020) mentioned, "Teachers and students can become researchers that use language to question and produce texts informed by their own reality" (p. 31). Hence, literacy gives us the power to become creators of our own World.

In 2018, the editor at the time, Professor Yuranny Romero, accepted the first creative piece in ENLETAWA Journal titled "El Molino Dorado" by Mauricio Barrera Cárdenas. This first work opened the door to question who and what can be published in an academic journal, and we have continued to push the envelope in all of the sections of the journal. The "Read with me: Celebrating our Local Literacies" event is a result of this transformation. Dr. Bertha Ramos-Holguín and I wanted to open a space to read and be read as a local community. As Freire once said, "The teacher has to be *free* to say to students 'You convinced me'. Dialogue is not an empty instructional tactic, but a natural process of knowing" (p. 15). At the event, it was gratifying to see high school students and scholars reading and listening to each other's work, which would not be possible in more formal, academic type settings. At the same time, we felt a sense of liberation in being able to express part of our lives and our communities with others. As one participant shared, she felt we were all thankful for a space to step away from our routines. She saw herself as a writer and remarked how many of her peers were born as new authors.



In the following section, I am proud to present the work of some of our local artists. I have made the choice to keep the original text without style correction or modification in order to honor the original languages and ideas expressed by the authors. It is my hope that these stories, poems, and narratives bring joy, reflection, emotion, and inspiration as they have for me.

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## References

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