

"Our Teachers": A Poem  
By Trinh Le

**KEYWORDS:**

Learning	Identity	Stimulus	Evaluating	Multiplicity
Punishment	Development	Learned Helplessness	Applying	Relativism
Reward	Oppression	Physical	Sense	Commitment
Constructivist	"Black Box"	Enhance	Memory	Views
Social justice	Yin/yang brain	Harmony	Interactions	Analytic
Colonial Education	Experience	Balance	Environment	Logic
Consciousness	Applications	Holistic	Evaluation	Self-image
Self-concept	Group learning	Curious	Reflection	Dominant culture
Collective	Social	Meaning	Behavior	Expression
Action	Emotional	Interpreting	Dualism	Narcissism
Superior	Agent	Phenomena	Strategies	Racism
Privilege	Equality	Humanism	Communalism	Colonizer
Colonized	Accommodation	Assimilation	Resistance	Native
Liberation	Human	Inferiority	Confusion	Outcast
Challenge	Institutions	Mentality	Reconnect	Society
Cooperative	Collaborative	Pedagogy	Thinking	Doing
"Mirror Neurons"	Mimic	Imitation	Social interaction	Inequality

= 85 Keywords

**THEME:** To fight against the status quo when it comes to teaching and learning. And we fight this by thinking and doing.

**FEELING/MOOD:** angry, questioning

## Our Teachers

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Our teachers reward us  
Our teachers punish us  
But how can they teach us?

Why must they  
Make us feel inferior  
Deny us of our knowledge, languages, cultures  
Assimilate our brothers and sisters

How can they  
Develop our consciousness  
Show us the way to social justice  
Help us be aware of inequality and privilege

When will they  
Challenge their assumptions  
Liberate us from our colonized minds  
Rise up.

Why must we  
Be defined by others  
Put up with colonial education  
Endure feelings of academic hopelessness

How can we  
Learn from each other  
Create harmony and balance  
Become holistic in our thoughts

When will we  
Commit to collective action  
Become agents to social change  
Rise up.