

Standardized

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1. What is education?

- a. Memorization of facts, figures, names, and dates
filed not only in the yellowed, dusty pages
of countless forgotten volumes,
but the vulnerable gray of 56 million youth
given few alternatives.
- b. Operation of gridded assembly line
classrooms completing black and white
make-work assignments
to fill empty vessels
and earn graduation pink slips.
- c. Indoctrination into the majority
whose glaring stares bully
the kid with a smudged free lunch stamp
on his hand which fails to rise
to his heart
as they stand and pledge
allegiance to a flag they don't understand.

Perhaps, none of the above.

Perhaps, thirty minutes isn't enough
time to find the true blue of the sky you're painting
or the right line break
in your poem.

Perhaps, the warm-up
of a Zumba routine won't get your heart racing
and Ode to Joy
isn't all of Beethoven's Ninth
and god forbid we let you have recess.