

High School
Poetry

Stay True to You
Schools will say STEAM is the only way
It's our future, you need to learn it every day
But what happened to "choosing your path?"
What about the people who aren't good at math?

Instead of focusing on strengths attention is forced
on learning all the requirements of each and every course
to fit the cookie cutter shape of society's game
that math, science, and technology is the reason we're made.
Forced to pass some test they think tells them what we know,
but they've missed the point of how to grow
students into strong individuals who won't have to loathe
because they're not defined by a test that tracks "growth."

And while we're on the subject of tests,
I think it's important to see
that from first grade to high school it takes up 180 days
That's a whole school year we could've spent preparing
for careers that require problem solving and critical thinking.
Not to mention the 24 hours a week
spent on homework, required reading, and studying
You do the math and it's not hard to see
That students don't have time for extracurricular activities
But somehow we squeeze them into our days
Leaving little time for sleep, friends and family.

But this doesn't have to be the future; we can break the status quo,
and focus more on what we know.
Praise the right instead of criticizing the wrong:
that is how you make a nation strong.
Don't euphemize a student by the number next to their name
That's not what defines them, testing is not the path to fame
Don't narrow the path of the future to STEAM
because what good is it to teach a fish to climb a tree?
Each and every student has a different combination of strengths
Take advantage of that and teach them to be
Individually unique in a future not narrowed to STEAM

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