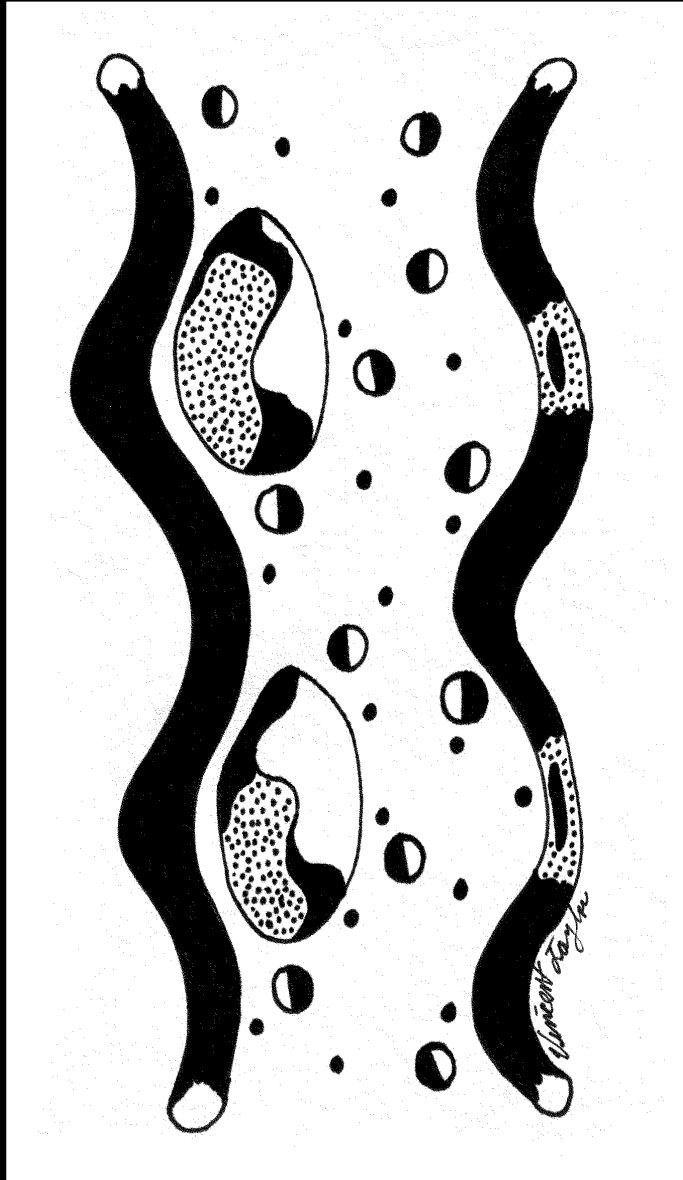


Only a Teacher



Eager to know my plans,
the many questions folk keep asking.
Mom says whatever it is,
make sure it's done with passion.
So I entered college hallways
praying like I was a preacher.
Wondering what I'm destined to be,
an engineer, a doctor? No! Only a teacher.

Of all the jobs to choose from
why was this chosen for me?
My aunt's a judge, cousin's a nurse,
and my baby sister's an attorney.
And now everyone's asking what I do,
what's my unique professional feature?
I just sigh, looking them right in the
eye saying, "I'm only a teacher."

No money in the savings and
the checking is nearly dry.
Yeah, we have summers off,
but most of us work second jobs just to get by.
When my wife desires gifts
that only I should buy her.
It saddens me to say,
"I'm sorry, I can't, I'm only a teacher."

But the years of this reality has
finally sunken in my brain.
I embrace it much better 'cause now
I see how I'm actually effecting change.
Every single year, drop-out rates increase while
results are plastered as a news feature.
But I refuse to let one of mine fail. I'm not
their mom nor their dad, but I am their teacher.