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Muxerista Pedagogies and Praxis:

Art, Activism, and Scholarship as Resistance and Restoration

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Does LOVE Belong in the Classroom?

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An ode to “Radical Jotería-Muxerista Love in the Classroom,” by Revilla, Núñez, Santillana Blanco, & González (2022)

I am a student finishing the final month of my master’s degree.

I still remember elementary school me.

Sitting at my table of four, but feeling so alone that day

My teacher and classmates looked down at me and laughed.

It was the day I pulled my folded-up homework out of the front pocket of my ripped jeans, Because I couldn’t finish it the night before amidst domestic fears and screams.

I still remember middle school me.

Taking an exam in Mr. W’s history class,

While he looked over my notes and snickered.

Instead of talking to me privately about my troubling quotes and scribbles, He announced to the class, firmly and angrily: “Don’t treat your notes like your diary!”

I still remember high school me.

Walking proudly through the halls wearing crop tops and mini shorts,

All while falling short on my classes and homework;

Two teachers met with me to tell me I’d “get nowhere the way I was dressing and performing,” I looked down, nodded— then ran to the bathroom crying.

I am now a student finishing the final month of my master’s degree.

Where Profa Muxerista gave me and all of her students stuffed animals on our first day of class; Where Profa Poeta comforted and consoled me when she learned of troubles from my past; Here, I've learned the classroom is not just a place of discomfort, worry, and obedience; Here, I've learned the classroom is a place of learning, joy, healing, acceptance, fun, and LOVE.