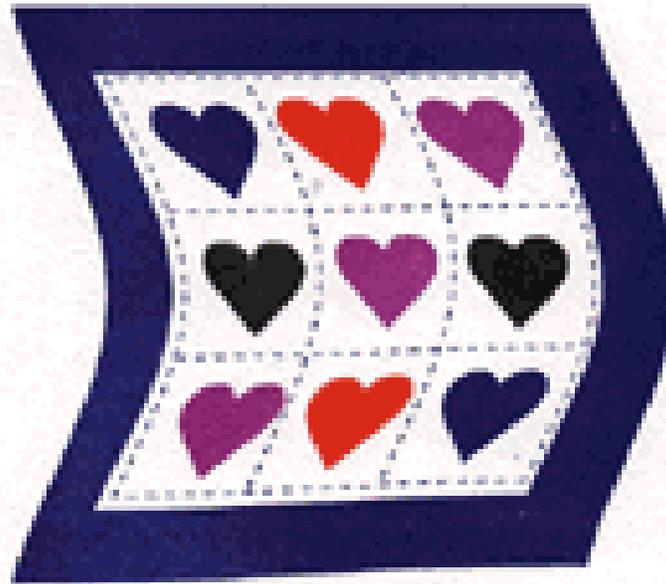


An adult learner's perspective



Reflections of the Heart

by sandy squibb

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FOREWORD

Dear Reader.

I am writing this letter to give a little bit of an idea where my poems come from. The first thing I would like to say is, each one is "from the heart." This is my way of expressing myself.

The first one I ever wrote was "*THANKS*". When I wrote this poem I really was thanking God for my life because four years ago I had a very bad drinking problem that I couldn't control. I even tried taking my own life, it got that bad. So I made some major changes in my life. In May, 1994, I enrolled in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) course at Keyin Tech. This being one of the best moves I had ever made. This is why I thank God for everything I have now, like my daughter, a place to live, a grade 12 education, and most important, my family, friends and my life.

As time went by I continued to write poems and each one has a reason. "*BROKEN DREAMS*" was a way of letting people know that they should not take things in life for granted because you never know what can happen. I had a very good friend who was very sick in hospital. Her name was Lisa. I went to visit her one day and she began telling me all the things we were going to do when she came home, but deep down inside I knew she was never coming home. But the only thing that was keeping her going was her dreams and no matter how sick she got she never let it show. A few days later Lisa's dreams were broken. She passed away on July 19, 1995, due to the sickness of AIDS. A few years before that Lisa's son also died with the same sickness. "*CHRISTMAS WITH LISA MAY*" was written because this was her favourite time of the year, and this was our first one without her. But I think Lisa was a lot happier where she was with her son Collin, her baby boy.

"*NOTHING'S FOREVER*" was written because I lost my Dad at a very young age. He was never really sick but I guess it was his time to go and I'll never know why. Telling a child they lost their poppy is something you have to explain from birth to death. Why they are born and why they die, because nothing is forever.

"*THE WAY I WANT TO BE*" is a way of expressing myself to my friends at Keyin Tech because they helped me change my life in so many ways for both me and Jennifer. I never really knew what it was like to have someone care for me, or to show how I can care for a person, sober, until I got the care from my "*TEACHERS*" and "*FRIENDS*" at Keyin Tech.

I hope this letter can make you understand where my poems come from. The rest just speak for themselves. These poems are reflections of my past and my present, and each one is from my heart.

Sandy Squibb
June 21, 1997

This book is dedicated to my daughter,
JENNIFER

SANDY SQUIBB

My name is Sandy Squibb. I am 30 years old and a single mother of one. I quit school at a very young age, not realizing how much of an impact it would have on my life as I grew older.

I came from a very large family, having six sisters and three brothers and back then it wasn't easy for my parents to raise such a large family on very little income. I was never a well to do child with regards to money or clothing so I felt I was looked down on and treated differently from the other children. As time went by it was getting harder for me to deal with the teachers and students in my school, so therefore I stayed home a lot. Then I failed a couple of times and finally I left one day and never went back.

After I left school I began baby-sitting and working off and on at the fish plant in Harbour Grace. This kept me going for a while.

In 1985 I met a man who became my husband on February 14, 1987. On June 8, 1987 I had my baby girl, Jennifer. As she grew older and knowing I had nothing to give her, only my love, life got harder for me to deal with. I had some bad turns in my life which caused me to have a family break-up. In May, 1994, I decided to make some changes in my life so I enrolled in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Course at Keyin Technical College, Carbonear, NF.

When I first entered the program I began in Level 1. On my first day I was nervous but after a week or so I got use to it and began to enjoy every minute of being there. In January of 1995 I took my next step which was Level 2. It got harder but I made it through the courses. In January 1996, I entered Level 3. This being a bigger challenge for me because it was my last chance at getting my grade 12. Finally on April 12, 1997, came the day I waited three years for -graduation day.

This was one of the most exciting days of my life for both me and my daughter, Jennifer, because she was very proud to see her Mom receive her reward for three years of hard work.

Getting my second chance at an education has made the future for Jennifer and I so much brighter and that's something I will be forever thankful for. I do plan to further my education in the near future and continue writing poetry so people can understand how much school has changed my life.

Sandy Squibb



A CHILD

The most precious gift in the world,
Is to have a little child,
To watch them grow and learn new things,
Can only make you smile.

I really hope this world will change,
To make it a better life,
For all our little children
Who I pray for every night.

The things that are in this world,
That we all have to face,
I pray to God that things will change
And give our children a better place.

A place where they can live,
Free from violence, drugs, and hate.
A place where they can lay their heads
And always feel safe.

Each night before you go to sleep,
Just take a minute of your time,
To say a prayer for our children,
To keep them safe from crime.

Written by: Sandy Squibb



DAD

Six years have passed
And I still can't see
Why God took you so suddenly.
If I could take back time
I know what I would do,
That's to tell you Dad
That I love you.
We cannot replace
The time we had spent,
I wish that I could tell you now,
How much that it meant.
I look at my own child and see,
The thoughts and prayers,
That you instilled in me.
I know that we had hard times
But we had some good times too,
There's not a day that goes by,
That I don't think of you.
I'll never, ever forget the night.
When you called and said
You won't speak to me tomorrow,
Because tomorrow I'll be dead.
I miss you Dad
But in a way,
I know that we'll be,
Together again someday.

Written by: Sandy Squibb



"MY DAUGHTER"

Jennifer is my little girl,
I love her best in all the world.
She has long blonde hair and sky blue eyes,
I hardly ever hear her cry.

Jennifer is the type of child,
To be always there to make you smile.
She never wants to see me sad,
She always wants to see me glad.

If there should come a day,
When Jennifer and I will part,
There will always be a place for my daughter
In my heart.

As the years are going past,
I see her grow so fast.
It seems like yesterday, I held her as a baby,
And now I look at her and see a perfect little lady.

Written by: Sandy Squibb



BROKEN DREAMS

Dreams are easily broken,
just like a person's heart.
One day your dream can make you happy,
but the next day torn apart.

Dreams are something you live for,
just like your hope and faith.
Some will always be there,
But most dreams just can't wait.

Dreams are something special,
they can give you a natural high.
Some can make you happy,
and some dreams can make you cry.

Dreams keep people going,
no matter how sick they are.
Some dreams can be really near,
but most dreams are really far.

Dreams can give you a state of mind,
but suddenly you will be awoken.
So don't ever take your dreams for granted,
because dreams are easily broken.

Written By: Sandy Squibb

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth, you were a lady,
With a heart full of kindness and love.
I guess that's why God took you,
To join his Angels above.

A friend like you will always be,
A very big part of my heart.
Because friendships like ours are never forgotten,
It's just the Heavens that keep us apart.

It's hard for me to imagine,
Never seeing your smiling face.
Your warming laughter and soft sounding voice,
There's no one who can take your place.

I wish that I could turn back time,
And take you by the hand.
To ask you why you left so soon,
And help me understand.

If there's a way that you can hear me,
There's something I need to say.
I miss you more than you'll ever know,
And think of you every day.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

A TIME FOR HAPPINESS

Engagement is a time
When two people make a promise,
To love, honour and cherish
And to always be honest.

When two people become engaged,
They create a special bond,
To share their sadness and happiness,
As their life goes on.

Carolyn and Glenn,
The day will soon come,
When two hearts bind together,
And become as one.

My wish to you two,
Is that you will always be glad,
And that there will never be a moment,
When you will both be sad.

As your wedding day approaches,
And you walk down the aisle,
Think about your life together,
And it will make you smile.

Written by: Sandy Squibb



CHRISTMAS WITH LISA FAY

This Christmas is going to be different
Because I lost a friend one day.
And now she's up in heaven,
Her name is Lisa Fay.

Christmas - it was Lisa's
Most favorite time of the year.
She would go from house to house,
Spreading all her cheer.

She loved to sit in the dark,
With the tree lights softly glowing,
Singing Christmas carols,
As the snow outside was blowing.

We would sit and look through the window,
And look up at the sky.
That night would always be bright,
As we waved our hands good-bye.

Your smile was warm and loving,
Your heart was full of joy.
This year you'll be spending Christmas,
With your beautiful baby boy.

This Christmas when I'm in the window,
Waving my hand good-bye,
Give my dad a hug for me,
And Collin, your little boy.

Written by: Sandy Squibb



HOW LONG

My most peaceful time
Is when I sit by the sea
I watch the sun rise and wonder
What the day holds in store for me.

The water is so calm
As the sun shines so bright,
It's a beautiful picture to look at,
It's a very peaceful sight.

As the days go by so quickly,
And the seasons go by fast,
I wonder how long I'm here for,
If my life will go really fast.

Seasons come and seasons go,
But life is once around.
So keep your head up really high,
And never bring it down.

The sea will be there,
The sun will shine,
The seasons will come and go.
But enjoy yourself while you're here,
For how long you do not know.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

A LONELY WALK

One night when I was walking
Down a dark and lonely street,
It seemed like someone was with me
I could hear the sound of feet.

I stopped and looked around me.
There was no one there to see.
The wind was blowing harder
As the leaves fell from the tree.

My body was very shaky,
My heart was beating fast.
I heard a voice saying "Don't be scared",
Who it was, I did not ask.

I wondered if it would harm me
Or bring me fear in any way.
I still don't know who it was,
Since then until this very day.

So now when I go walking,
Down that dark and lonely street,
I don't mind hearing the sound,
Of a lonely spirit's feet.

My heart, it now beats normal,
To me I have no fears.
I feel I know this spirit,
From the hard and lonely years.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

NOTHING'S FOREVER

What do you tell a child,
When they lose someone they love?
Do you tell them they're gone to heaven,
With the angels up above?

Then when your child looks up at you,
And asks, "Mom, is it true,
That some things that you love in life,
You will probably lose them too?"



Why does God take people,
Away from their loved ones in life?
To leave our moms on this earth,
With no husband, but she's still a wife?

Someday when I see God,
I'll have a question or two.
To ask Him why He took my dad,
And do the things He do.

So God if you are listening,
Please take a second of your time,
To let me know that dad's with you,
And not doing any crime.

Someday when I go to heaven,
I will meet you at the gate,
To tell you how much I love you dad,
But that day will have to wait.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

SOMETIMES

Sometimes I sit and wonder,
Will all my dreams come true.
Sometimes I sit and wonder,
Will I ever be like you.



Sometimes when I sit and wonder,
As the wind blows through my hair,
Sometimes I hear a whisper,
Asking if I was there.

Sometimes I sit and wonder,
What that whisper meant,
Was it talking about the hurt,
That every child has spent.

Sometimes I sit and wonder,
Will there ever come a day,
When we'll be free of harm and violence,
So to you our Lord I pray.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

DREAMS TO SUCCESS

It seems like only yesterday,
When we began on our journey to success
Our dreams of one day graduating was just a thought,
But here today it's reality.



When a person decides to go back to school,
It takes a lot of courage to do so.
But when determination leads to accomplishments
It makes life so much easier.



The caring and understanding of the instructors,
Encourage the students to follow their dreams.
This is one of the reasons why we believe,
That we are graduates from a school of excellence.



Friendships that have been made over the years,
Are bonds that will never be broken.
When we entered the doors at Keyin Tech,
It opened our minds to a better future.

Sometimes things were hard to deal with,
But no matter how bad it got we never quit.
Because we set our hearts on a goal in life,
And that is why we are here today.

May the success of your future journeys,
Be as successful for you all.
As they were during the years,
At Keyin Tech

Written by: Sandy Squibb

#1 TEACHER

Wendy, I would like to thank you
From the bottom of my heart,
For helping make my dream come true,
You are also playing a part.

I think you're a wonderful teacher
And you have always lent a hand
To help me through my hard times,
"Why?", I'll never understand.



People like you are hard to come by,
So I feel that I've been blessed
To have a friend like you,
I think you're nothing but the best.

I know we've had our differences,
But now that's in the past.
For me to be mad at a friend like you,
I know would never last.

I just want you to know,
That you are also playing a part,
To help fill that empty space
The one that was in my heart.

Thanks for being there for me,
So caring, good-hearted, and kind,
And the things that you have said to me
Will always be on my mind.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

TEACHERS

Teachers are something special,
To me they're really great.
Teachers make me feel good,
They're people who I appreciate.

At school, there's two main teachers,
Whose names are Carolyn and Pay,
I look forward to going to school,
To see them everyday.

Carolyn is a person
Who is very understanding.
She lets you know that starting is rough,
But you will make a perfect landing.

Fay is a person
Who will always find a way
To let you know how important you are,
Each and every day.

These are two people
In my heart will always be,
A very big part of my life,
Because they've done so much for me.

I know the day will come,
When the three of us will part,
So I just want to say thanks,
For filling that empty place in my heart.

Written by: Sandy Squibb



THANKS

One night I was sitting,
Looking at the sky,
The moon was bright,
The night was still,
I saw a star go by.



My heart was full of laughter,
My eyes were full of tears,
I was thinking of how lucky I was,
To make it through the years.

I was thinking of my past,
How did I ever last!
The horrible things I did and said,
I don't know why I wasn't dead.

I guess there is an angel,
Watching over me.
Because I know without that angel,
My life would never be.

Each night as I sit,
And look up at the sky,
I thank God for everything,
And that shooting star goes by.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Wedding bells were ringing
In November of 46,
Vows exchanged, a bond created,
And true love began with a kiss.

Mom and Dad you joined your hearts,
And together became as one
Beginning your new lives with each other,
Having three daughters and four sons.

The both of you were always there,
To fill our hearts with joy
You listened, talked, and laughed with us
And held us when we cried.

We know that raising seven children,
Wasn't very easy to do.
And working so hard to make ends meet,
Was also a hard job too.

As the years went by we now realize,
How hard you strived in life.
I guess that's what creates a special bond,
Between a husband and a wife.

Mom and Dad, we want you to know,
We feel that we've been blessed.
Because when God decided to give us our parents
He gave us only the best.

May there never be a day go by,
That the both of you will miss.
The sharing of love and vows you began,
On your wedding day fifty years ago with a kiss.

THE WAY I WANT TO BE

Someone who is loving and caring
That's the way I want to be.
Someone who will give a heart and a half,
To have a happy family.

Someone my friends can count on,
Through good times and through bad,
Someone to lift their heads up,
When they're feeling sad.

Someone to have respect for you,
No matter who you are,
Someone who keeps on trying,
No matter how near or far.

Someone who would do anything,
To make ends meet.
Someone who will pick you up,
When you fall to your feet.

Someone did this for me,
When I was in water up to my neck.
Someone who did this for me,
Was my teachers and friends at Keyin Tech.

Written by: Sandy Squibb

For My Friend

As days go by,
The time we spent it meant so much to me.
Our friendship began and never stopped,
In levels two and three.

We shared our stories and had our disputes,
But never did it end.
The bond that we both made together,
As level two began.

At first you were hard to get through to,
But I knew it from the start.
That you were a loving and caring lady,
But a brick wall built by your heart.

You made me realize so many things,
Since the first time we had our chat,
You said that all you really wanted,
Was honesty and to be respected and nothing more than that.

So now that all this time has passed,
It seems to me it went by fast,
But the one thing that I'm thankful for so much,
Is I finally found a friend who I can trust.

Now that the day will soon be here,
The day I leave that's the day I fear.
When that day does arrive,
I know the hurt will make us cry.

But remember you do fill my heart with joy,
And friends say see you but never good-bye.

To Wendy
From Sandy
April 24, 1997

GRADUATION DAY

To all my Friends, I wish you the best
For me to have you, I know I've been blessed.

The memories that we've made, throughout the years
We laughed, shared stories and even shed tears.

To all my classmates, I want you to know
That true friendships don't fade, they continue to grow.

And to all of my teachers, who filled my heart with joy
Friends say see you, but never good-bye.

So in years from now, when we're drifted apart
Just think of those memories, that lay close to our hearts.

The hard times and good times, and even the tears
Will help keep our friendships for many a year.

