

The Shape of My School David Jason

You were there, I have been seen.

You were respectful; I have a self-esteem.

You were inclusive; I feel I belong.

You were accepting; I have a feeling of proper place.

You were nurturing; I have grown through time and space.

You were guarding; I now feel I am protected.

You were leading; I have found my path in a new light.

You were educational; I have now prepared myself for life.

There, Respectful, Inclusive, Accepting, Nurturing, Guarding, Leading, Educational – Triangle

Is all those things and even more

With people like you, it could be a space of potential growth, and success

For youth who don't fit into the social norms

And feel they are not welcome with open arms.

The time is now; your job benefits ones other than you

Stand up, fight, and challenge old ways

Please set an example, be a mentor

Give us youth something to look up to in future days.
Be there

Be Respectful

And please be Inclusive too

You will feel better for starting something new.

Be Accepting, Be Guarding, Be Leading, and Educational

For oppression does not sleep, it likes it when you rest

And then heterosexism works at its best

Take the test, Fighting, challenging, supporting

Putting on that bullet proof vest

That shields me from society.

Protects me, makes me safe

This is time to change old ways, old views, and curriculums

It is now the time diverse schools met diverse communities.

No minority or marginalized human being shall be a victim

A victim of loss, abuse, and isolation

For our schools can learn from Triangle, for it sets the example,

That it is possible to have an inclusive space for everyone to benefit from.

Students like this school, every last one

Because it is finally for them

But now your job comes at a price

Just because we have Triangle doesn't mean it is right

As it is a Band-Aid solution there's work to be done

Triangle is small, though has grown since 1995

From 18 to 45; the space has become a classroom

But it brings a tear to my eye that youth within and outside the GTA

From Newfoundland to Halifax, they keep coming year after year

The grand opening of Triangle 2 is my only greatest fear

Because we don't need it, we shouldn't have the first one

Together, with your help we will make use of the phrase

It Gets Better

Because our schools will have more than a GSA

But a structured, safe, educational environment that all claim

Being there, being supportive for every student, every human being.

I thank you for giving me my voice, my nerve, and new passion for public speaking

I feel it's a way to give back,

Please, listen to my opinion; it's a new way of thinking.

As Triangle is a necessity that still has a steady flow

It needs more support staff to encourage its growth.

Please advocate it, represent it, and make it feel a part of the school board

However once our schools are safe, inclusive, and inviting

Once they challenge, re-educate, and condemn discrimination

Then watch in awe as the nurturing educational environment soars

When all this happens, be patient, then you all can applaud and cheer with me.

The Triangle Program will be able to close its doors.