

## Revisiting Me

Note:

Here is my revised poem. I like it better, but could still work on it more during the year. Do you all have any suggestions for me?

I am a teacher  
Challenged by changes  
Hopeful because of the intelligence of my colleagues  
and the promise of youth.  
I am half a century at my profession  
Determined to share the power of language and literature.  
equipped with experience and curricula  
but mainly with love.  
I pretend everyone relishes learning as much as I do  
I want everyone to embrace challenges, celebrate excellence,  
raise questions, ponder ideas  
I worry with balancing excellence and acceptance, fundamentals and fun.  
I sigh at shallow stupidity, burdensome bureaucracy,  
contrary computers, and small-minded meanness  
I struggle and think, persevere and pray  
I understand that wondering and growing are inseparable.  
I dream of peace on earth, sharing our stories, and learning from history  
I want to live, not merely preach, a principled life  
I hope to build a creative, conscientious, contemplative community wherever I go  
I repeat Einstein's words:  
"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler."  
I am a guide, advocate, cheerleader  
I am a teacher  
convinced that no other profession could so completely  
stimulate and satisfy my soul.

Carolyn Harrell, 2015

### ~About Carolyn Harrell~

I was born at the threshold of post WW II peace  
My parents were **dependable and caring**; as solid as a promise  
Survivors of a changing world  
Fighters against laziness  
**Believers in God**  
I was named for southern sounds and music  
My mother taught me housekeeping, **gentleness, and patience**  
My father taught me **passion and stamina**  
And they wrapped it up in **reading**.  
**Jesus' wisdom** models effective teaching  
**My children's brilliance** teaches me awe and gratitude  
I left my parents' home in 1959, naïve and expectant  
to join the world of young college-educated women  
But not until I married Bob did I **learn to think**,  
and not until I began to teach did I **learn to learn**.  
I am creative and enthusiastic  
A relentless **workaholic**  
My students say that I'm Queen of Harrellland  
I long for **perfection**,  
**assurance** of Heaven, and  
**comfort** food without calories

Annotation:

Here is another poem I wrote using the last of the four formats from the handout. I liked this model and just wanted to try it. I hope you'll try multiple formats as well. I haven't edited or revised this one yet.