

I Will Keep Trying

by Jeannette Rosario

When I was young, I was curious about everything going on in the house. I noticed everything. I always tried to help my family members if they needed something. Most of the time, it was my mother who needed the help. It was difficult for her because she had a very difficult upbringing and didn't have a lot of parenting skills. I understood and could see things through her eyes. When she got nervous, I tried to be there for her.

School was my favorite place to be. Most of the time I kept to myself. I liked to talk to the teachers and help them. I was afraid to have friends, but if someone came and wanted to play with me, I usually did. That didn't happen often, so I spent most of the time reading. I loved learning something new. Once I mastered it, I felt so good.

Later on, however, I got sick. I had a teacher that was not a good teacher. Even though I had good grades, she didn't promote me. My mom fought the decision by going to the principal. She knew how hard I had worked. The school decided to place me with a tutor. The tutor worked with me and said that I was progressing nicely. I thought that I would be promoted. But all that changed.

My mom decided to move the family to Puerto Rico. Everything turned bad for me. Nothing went right. I didn't understand Spanish and I missed some school, so they kept me back a grade. I ended up dropping out of high school.

Now I am studying to get my GED. I've taken the test unsuccessfully four times. It seems like every time I try to study, personal problems come up. I can't concentrate in class or I can't make it to class. I'm unable to study enough, so I fail. I don't have anyone to help me with my baby. When I want to study, I can't because she demands all of my attention. Sometimes it seems like no one understands how difficult it is to be a single parent.

I want to do better and be better. I have a lot to give, but at times when it gets so hard I just want to hide inside myself. I am in school right now and I am concentrating on that. I am not sure how I am going to reach my goals, but I'm going to keep on trying until I do.

Jeannette Rosario grew up in the Bronx, NY and is a student at Mujeres Unidas en Acción in Boston.

Emerging Woman

by Vivian Miller

*As the sun rises
So will I*

*As the moon glows
So will I*

*As the rain nourishes
So will I*

*As the clouds protect
So will I*

*I will emerge into a
beautiful woman*

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