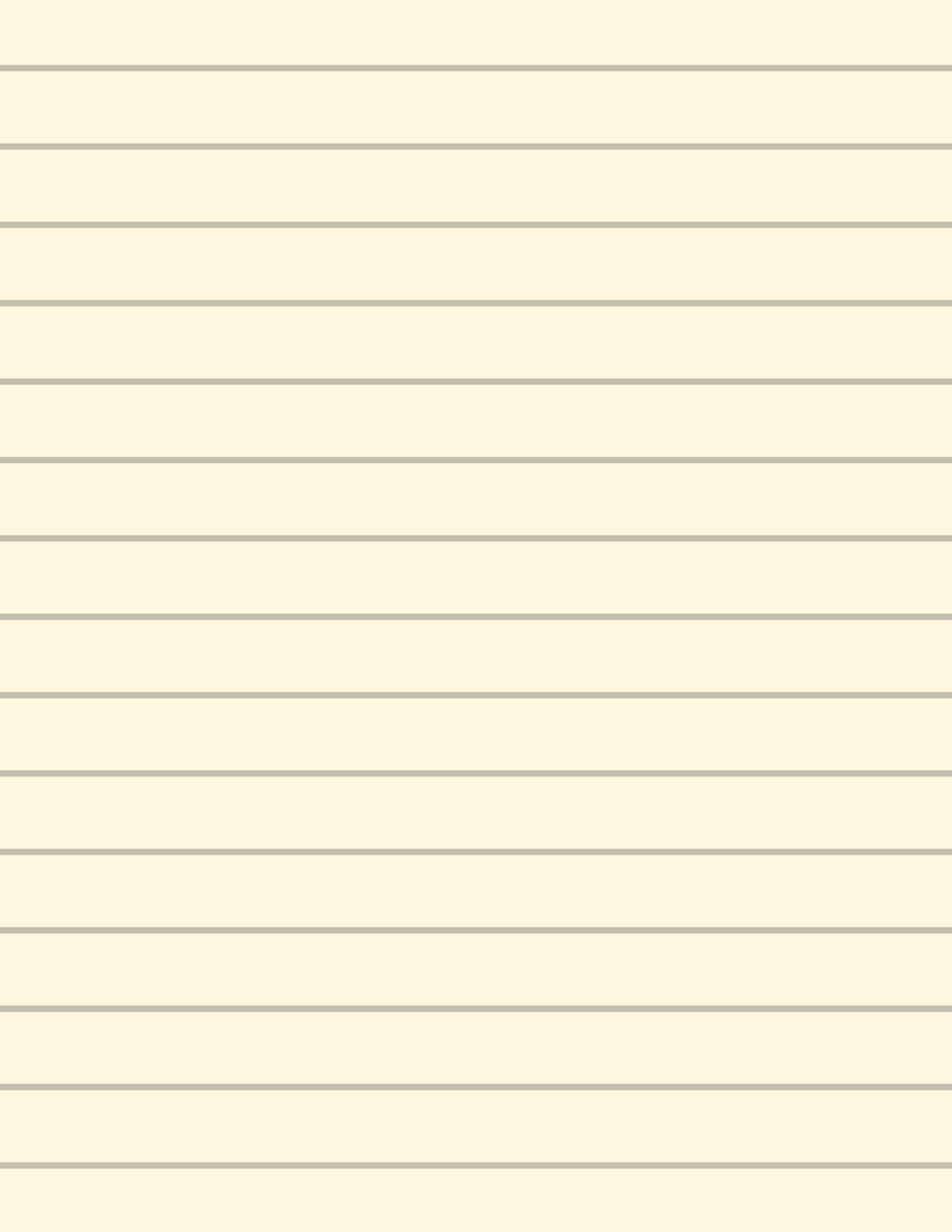


+ ♀ = ~~♀~~

re-gifted

Trigger Warning.



# The Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)

just for boys

1980-2000



1980

it was "decided"  
early on that i was  
"gifted"



places I got beaten up

gifted class

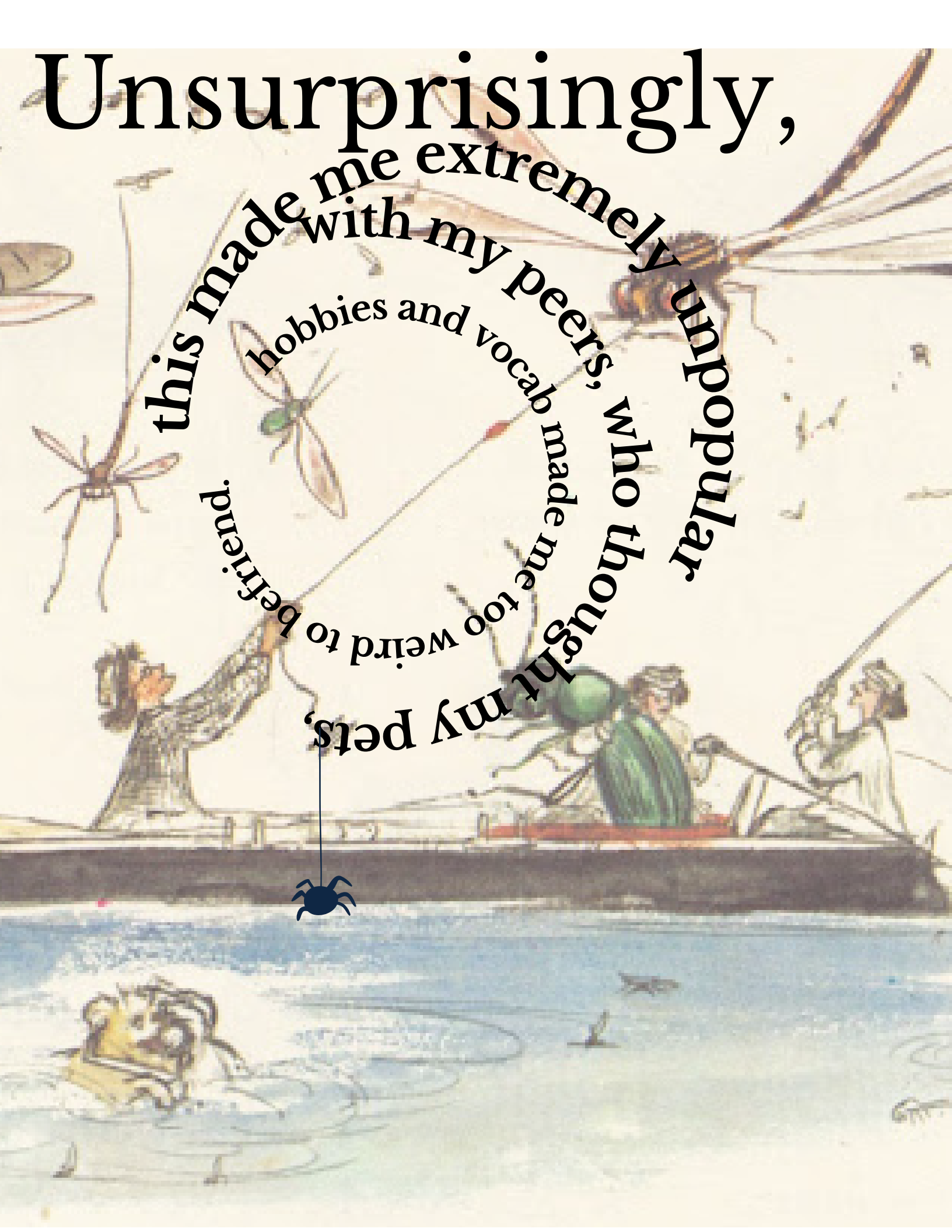
because of how I spoke, my keen  
interest in the sciences, and  
the way I intuited math.



# Unsurprisingly,

this made me extremely unpopular  
with my peers, who thought my pets,  
hobbies and vocab made me too weird to befriend.

my pets,



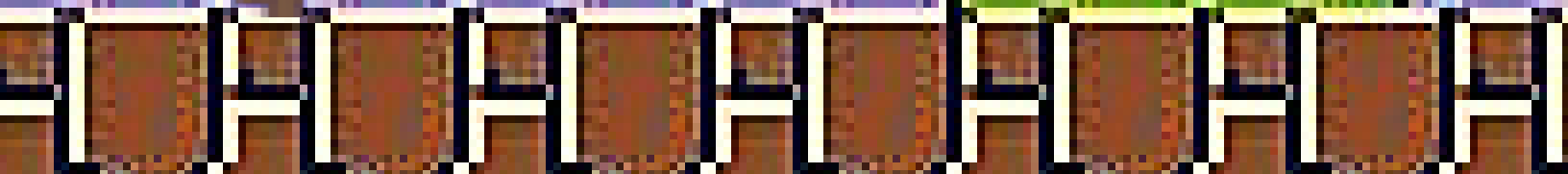
1984

i changed schools for a year  
and then back

which left me even more isolated than before



1985



**when i was targeted by the**

**aggain**  
**older kids**

**our librarian**

**told me I could hang out in the  
library**

**and encouraged me to read  
whatever I found interesting**

ONE DAY IN

JUNE  
1985

MR. ZELLER SLID ME

A SLIP OF PAPER

A LIST OF BOOKS TO

RETURN

A LIST OF AUTHORS I

MIGHT LIKE

THE LAST DATE OF

CLASSES

A REMINDER THAT I

WAS ALWAYS

WELCOME IN THE

LIBRARY

**REMEMBER!**

SO

teethmarks



Forbidden stimming



denied the biro  
shame pencil

# Chewy

dermatophagia



BFRB

I struggled a lot

with writing organization too



ON MONDAY, THE  
LIBRARY WAS CLOSED  
ON TUESDAY, THE



**Kenneth Zeller:** 40-year-old died in "unprovoked and brutal assault" in High Park.

LIBRARY WAS CLOSED  
ON TUESDAY, THE  
LIBRARY WAS CLOSED  
ON TUESDAY, THE  
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LIBRARY WAS CLOSED  
ON TUESDAY, THE  
LIBRARY WAS CLOSED  
ON TUESDAY, THE  
LIBRARY WAS CLOSED  
ON TUESDAY, THE

, THE LIBRARY WAS

CLOSED





**THE SYSTEMIC CHANGES THAT FOLLOWED  
ADDRESSED LONG STANDING ISSUES OF  
DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL  
ORIENTATION, AND PAVED THE WAY FOR  
THE LGBT COMMUNITY TO BE RECOGNISED  
BY THE TDSB**

**EVENTUALLY**





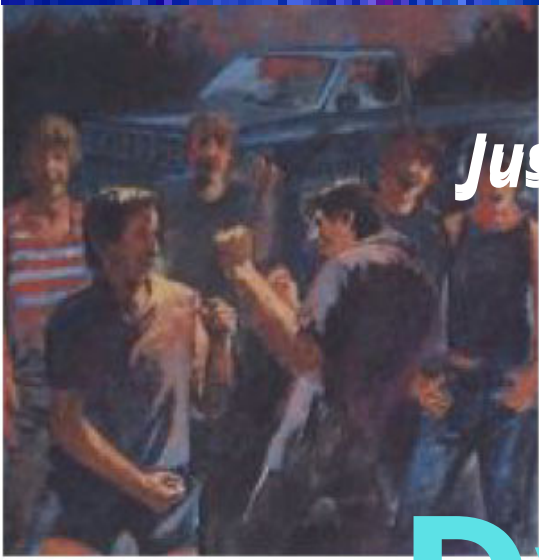
# GOOD THINGS TAKE TIME

Holy Shit

*It took*

11 Years!





Lezzie

Just stop talking about it

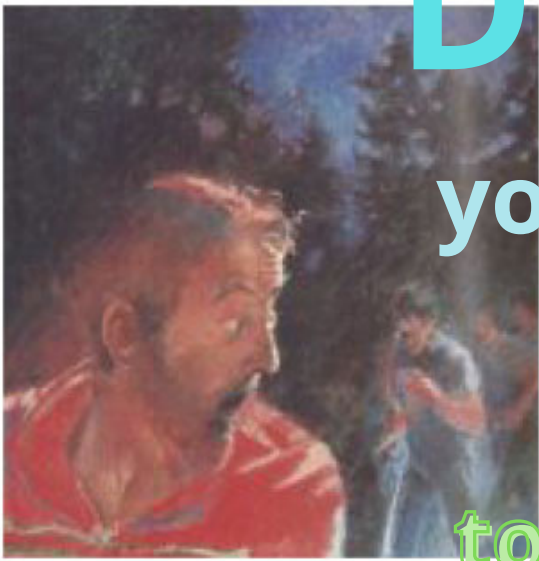
fag queer



Dyke

you'll catch

Gay



IT

bisexual

tomboy

AIDS

are you a boy, or a girl?

bashing

what's wrong with you?



**grade 6**

**i'm not allowed to talk about  
the pride parade**

**Mr. Zeller**

**the books i read  
the words i use**

**the questions i ask**

**the clothes i wear**

**the people i meet**

**problematic**

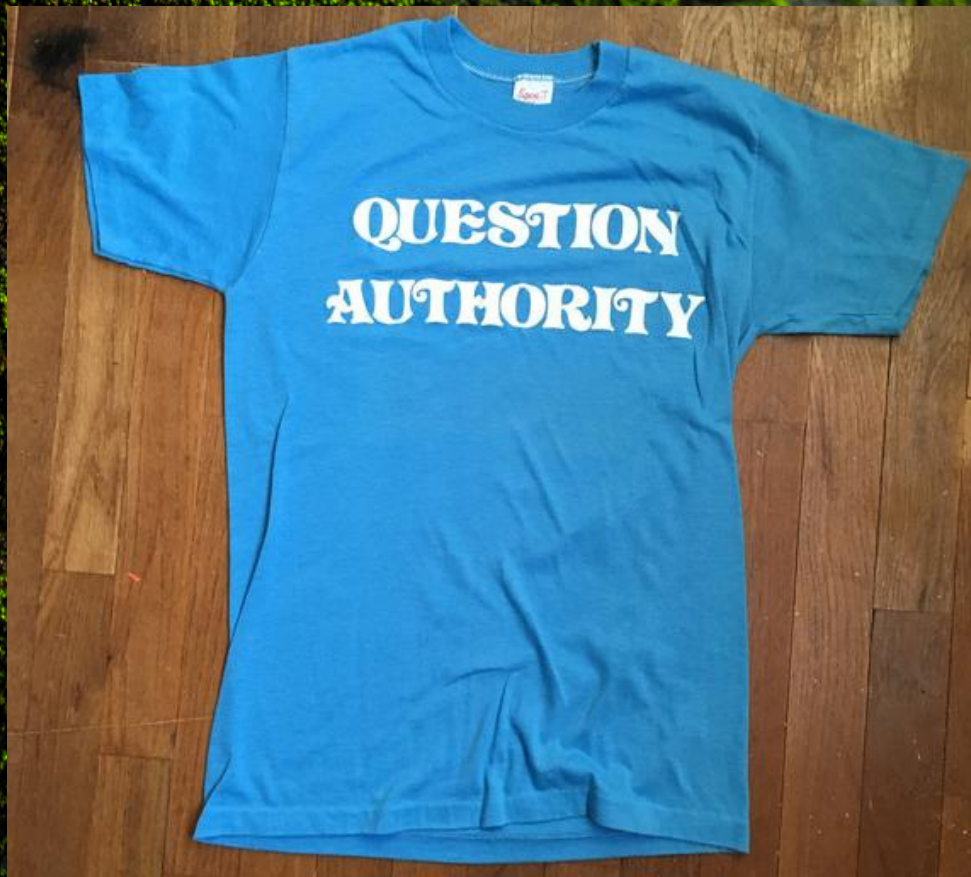


Jr high

I enter the "alternative school  
system"—rather than stream  
with my classmates

i'm told it's for safety

not sure whose





**burnt out**

**&**

**unsupported**  
**i drop out of high school**

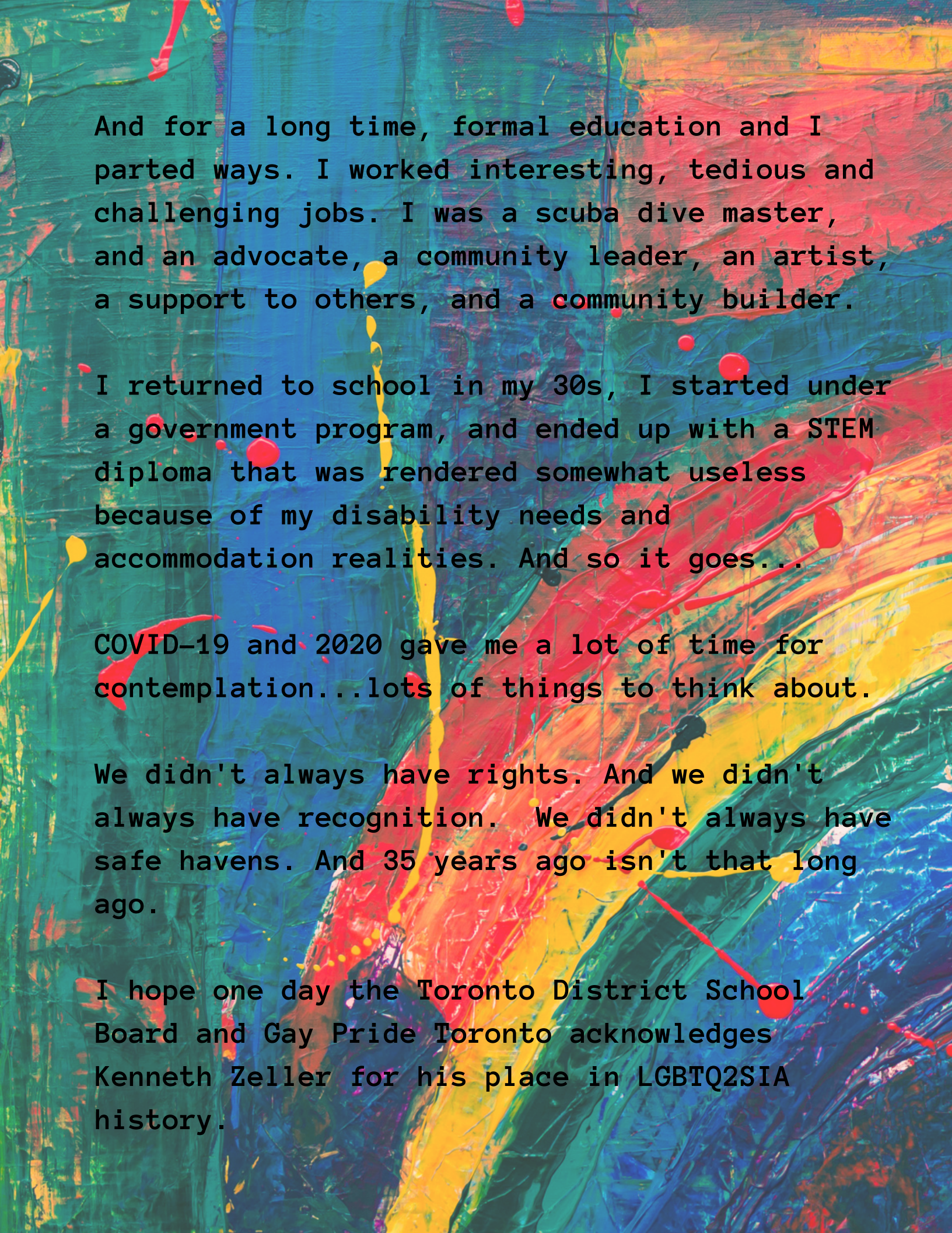
**GED**

**GOOD ENOUGH DIPLOMA**

**take my GED**

**and gtfo**





And for a long time, formal education and I parted ways. I worked interesting, tedious and challenging jobs. I was a scuba dive master, and an advocate, a community leader, an artist, a support to others, and a community builder.

I returned to school in my 30s, I started under a government program, and ended up with a STEM diploma that was rendered somewhat useless because of my disability needs and accommodation realities. And so it goes...

COVID-19 and 2020 gave me a lot of time for contemplation...lots of things to think about.

We didn't always have rights. And we didn't always have recognition. We didn't always have safe havens. And 35 years ago isn't that long ago.

I hope one day the Toronto District School Board and Gay Pride Toronto acknowledges Kenneth Zeller for his place in LGBTQ2SIA history.



