

In the LD Bubble

Reading "In the LD Bubble" by Lynn Pelkey allowed me to step into the shoes of someone with a learning disability and gain a deeper understanding of what they experience in daily life. I was also able to relate what a "learning disability" meant when I was growing up and the negative impacts it had on others. As Pelkey mentions through her experience, people with a learning disability are perceived to be unworthy or even lazy. I am uncertain why some people have such a nasty outlook on learning disabilities. It is because of close-mindedness towards people with learning disabilities that many people do not admit they may need help and seek to find the support they need to overcome the disability.

Pelkey described a few points throughout her life, where she was able to overcome the disability and blend in with other "normal students". Most of this was due to building her confidence and increasing her intrinsic motivation to learn through teachers. This is inspiring to me as a teacher because it shows that building student engagement and getting to know your students on a personal level can strengthen their abilities and motivational level. It can increase learning capacity and create a sense of self-worth. The author describes how she developed a "learned helplessness" behavior and "failure accepting" personality from the negative stereotypes associated with learning disabilities. If others did not expect much of her, she did not also.

As a teacher, I want my students to feel comfortable and safe in the classroom and have a high sense of self-worth. I will help my students to my fullest ability and educate them so they understand that a learning disability does not mean you cannot learn, but you must work harder. I want to teach all my students what a learning disability really means and have them understand everyone learns in different ways. I will also apply differentiated instruction into my classroom so that every student has an opportunity to learn based on their learning style. I will encourage students to speak up and ask for help if they do not understand something. I want my students to understand that through hard work and perseverance they can overcome any disability.