

AGM
20
20

LET US DREAM

A collaborative
poem by

*Panya
Banjoko*

Where do we find refuge, a place of retreat
to curb the pang of loneliness that preys,
somewhere to be fixed in the solace we seek
when our bones ache and memories are frayed,
a place to release the burden of old age,
to give us courage as we push on through
be captivated and wholesomely engaged,
to be the best? Only the best pursue.

And what of the children we wish to inspire?
Where can they gather hope, learn to exhale,
and learn not to judge, but keep their dreams on fire,
find a cornerstone to see life's detail,
use their grubby fingers to mould clay, and thumb
dog-eared pages to stretch their growing voice
to the boom-bah- boom-bah of traditions drum,
a place to swell with pride, be spoilt for choice?

And what for the rest of us, the folk who try
to widen who we are what we value
in this old mottled world as onward we fly
soaked in a culture of being read to,
marching forward to walls of broadening smiles
and guided through rows of make-believe tales
which tumble from shelves that run for miles and miles
charmed by poets and authors blazing trails?

This place to bunch with friends and to share wishes,
treasure love and hone how we care for us,
this place where minds escape, a chance to flourish,
visit other worlds that feed hope and trust,
carve in all of our hearts new routes to daydream
and make a better world as we connect
to lives of study, the pull of words which stream,
drives us to learn and with new eyes reflect.

▶ **BE
INSPIRED.**