A Donut Shop

Created by: Pearse, Upward Bound, University of Texas at El Paso, TX

An old pachuco works tirelessly in a donut shop
Baking empty space in the center of a sweet satisfying bread
Decorated with battle scars and a bandana on his head
An old warrior searching for peace
A beard whiter than snow showing his wisdom
An old wolf, all seeing and all knowing
Enjoys the company of his customers
Asking really easy questions
Or giving no complicated suggestions
He’s an old pachuco who works tirelessly in a donut shop
Too much pride to retire
Yeah, I think he’s happy where he is
He knows he is one of a kind
Part of a generation of real people
Do you know who he is?
He’s an old pachuco who works tirelessly in a donut shop
I wrote this poem during my sophomore year for an English teacher who was quite crazy. He asked us to write ten poems about anything we saw, experienced, or heard. After I wrote a couple of poems, I decided to write one about this donut shop baker who worked right in front of my school. Sometimes I went to the donut shop and he would talk to me.

He told me a story about how he used to be in a gang in California when he was younger. He explained how the kids today just get into gangs because they think it is cool and have nothing else better to do. He talked about how his gang members were his friends and that he had been in fights that were pretty brutal. He showed me some scars on his hands, one that came from a knife that was stabbed through his hand and the other from a bullet.

He also explained why he wore a braided pony tail. The Chinese wore pony tails so that when they died the spirits in heaven would have something to pull them up with. All the stories he shared were tremendous, I learned a lot from him. His name was Louie and I believe that he got fired because he kept giving free donuts away to kids. He did not care that teenagers were immature, he still thought that they were pretty cool.

In conclusion to this essay, the poem was published by a local library. I enjoyed writing it; one never knows where inspiration will strike.

Work Cited:
The papier-mâché donut photograph was taken by S. Mayr on May 16, 2006.