

TEACHER, TEACHER

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

tolerant quick-witted confident

you are in my heart

thank you for believing in me

I would not be me without you

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

you inspire me

to read by choice

“I love that you are reading”

you say in your voice like music to my ears

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

brave kind glamorous

without you I would be a mess

dumb as a doornail dumb as rocks

I am not sure I would survive if you weren't here

you make me feel important

like the brightest star in space

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

I would be homeschooled without you

you teach me cursive long division

and not to use my Rubik's cube in class

you lead me down the right path

to academic excellence

you even showed me how

to open the window

without getting my head stuck

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

I wonder and think what do teachers bring?

a leader shaping leaders

I appreciate thee

sweet as my mom kind like a parent

you comfort and respect me

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

I see a wave of books and paper

when I think of you

my appreciation is overdue

not even erasable pen could take away

the memories we've made together

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

sometimes the class gets crazy

but you help us get back on track

when someone listens and gives the right answer

you do a happy dance “Put your best foot forward”

you always say “Never rush” “Take your time”

that’s why your heart is friends with mine

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

you make magnificent paper maché maracas

you have the neatest smartboard cursive ever

but most importantly you’ve changed me

even the blind can see I’ve grown because of you

you make my world better

I could be your sticker placer forever

please keep being cool

Teacher Teacher

with your beautiful self

you build my confidence like nobody’s business

I trust you I thank you I turn to you

when I need help when I am sad

you cheer me up with your peaceful smile

I’m a stray dog without you

I’ll keep you in my heart forever

Teacher Teacher
with your beautiful self
if not for you I would flow
like water with no borders
I would cry a river if you were gone
when I see you my heart melts
I think of an open field
soothing voice gentle as lace
you make a place for everyone

Compiled from lines by students
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Versified and arranged by Tina Cane,
Poet Laureate of Rhode Island, Summer 2017

With love and gratitude.