

The Inspectors Call

—marks of a good-enough school



Stillness

The school has points in time and space of stillness and of rite, found and made, so staff and pupils sometimes cease from getting, gaining, giving grades.

Stories

The school's a store of stories, told and heard, everyone's a storytelling creature; myths, miraculous, true, absurd: every pupil grows from stories, so does every teacher.

Textures

The school's surfaces have depth and range—pattern, cloth, shade, flower, leaf: Textures are like texts, they engage and mirror, and tell and dance, the self.

Seasons

Pupils know and touch the seasons,
and dawns and dusks and births and lungs,
and know and touch the world of persons,
their loves and losses, dreams and songs.

Journeys

With love and care the teachers send
the pupils out on journeys every day
by dark and light, on water, foot and land,
to hear new tongues, learn new play.

Fruits

The school talks and thinks about what's fair
and knows that no-one's in this alone,
and to engage with politics they dare:
and by their fruits they are known.



Source: an address about spirituality in education for the Redbridge Standing Council on Religious Education (SACRE), 1998. The text of the complete address may be read at <https://www.patience-and-passion.org/pdfs/This%20Wretched%20Word%20Spiritual.pdf>.