

POEM OF THE WEEK

OK, I'M HERE. NOW WHAT?

Where you wanted me to be
Where you advised me to be
Where you thought I should be
How do you feel? Hip hop happy?

This is the place I'm supposed to learn
Learn by doing; make rules as I go
How does it feel? Did I detect your interest
Alien. Strange. Terrifying. I can do it!

[Repeats to self: I can do it. I can do it.
Pauses. What is 'it'? Fill in the blanks.
Be a man? A husband? A father?
A grandfather? A grieving widow(er?)

A businessman? A poet?
Where are the subway walls?
I've been there, invited or not
I wrote my name on a crumbling wall

I learned? By doing? Making up the rules?
Yes. Thanks to the New Zealand school system
"Education in New Zealand is a student-centred
pathway providing continuous learning

progression and choice so that:
1. Students progress every year,
2. Their learning at one level sets
the foundation for the next steps

along a chosen pathway. "
The pathway may be long
The path may be difficult
The pathway is a pathway

Where you wanted me to be
Where you advised me to be
Where you thought I should be
How do you feel? Hip hop happy?

So, this is the place
I'm supposed to learn
A factory. A shop.
Running a business

Speaking at a conference.
Working in a supermarket
Learn by doing;
make rules as I go

How does it feel?
Did I detect your interest?
I've done it. I was there.
Now what?

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