

ABSTRACT

DESERT DREAMS: A WATER-RELATED MEMOIR

On the first day of Mark Larsen's Water Science and Technology class in Caruthers High, one of his students tells her friends about her weird dream of zapping jellyfish on a beach without water. Desert Dreams is about these dreams that can transform a desert into paradise as well as dreams that can zap because of drought. This work of creative nonfiction interweaves my memories of growing up in the desert city of Los Angeles and my classroom observations of the first water science technology course, a Fresno County Office of Education, Fresno Occupational Regional Program, taught in the Caruthers Unified School District during the fall of 2008. I have aimed to unpack some of the elements of water and its science for nonscientific people like myself because understanding that water is a precious and a limited-natural resource is imperative. Without water life cannot exist. I also explore how Regional Occupational Programs can transform the lives of socioeconomic challenged children by equipping them for jobs that benefit them, their families as well as the regions they live in. Without this kind of education and equipping of student in areas such as water, this county does not have a future.

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