

Saddleman

Dennis

Monster

MONSTER, A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE  
By Dennis Saddleman

I hate you residential school

I hate you

You're a monster

A huge hungry monster

Built with steel bones 5

Built with cement flesh

You're a monster

Built to devour

Innocent native children

You're a cold-hearted monster 10

Cold as the cement floors

You have no love

No gentle atmosphere

Your ugly face grooved with red bricks

Your monster eyes glare 15

From grimy windows

Monster eyes so evil

Monster eyes watching

Terrified children

Cover with shame 20

I hate you residential school I hate you

You're a slimy monster

Oozing in the shadows of my past

Go away leave me alone

You're following me wherever I go 25

You're in my dreams in my memories

Go away monster go away

I hate you you're following me

I hate you residential school I hate you

You're a monster with huge watery mouth 30

Mouth of double doors

Your wide mouth took me

Your yellow stained teeth chewed

The Indian out of me

Your teeth crunched my language 35  
 Grinded my rituals and my traditions  
 Your taste buds became bitter  
 When you tasted my red skin  
 You swallowed me with disgust  
 Your face wrinkled when you 40  
 I hate you Residential School I hate you  
 You're a monster  
 You dumped me in the toilet then 85  
 You flushed out my good nature  
 my personalities  
 I hate you Residential School I hate you  
 You're a monster.....I hate hate you  
 Thirty three years later 90  
 I rode my chevy pony to Kamloops  
 From the highway I saw the monster  
 My God! The monster is still alive  
 I hesitated I wanted to drive on  
 but something told me to stop 95  
 I parked in front of the Residential School  
 in front of the monster  
 The monster saw me and it stared at me  
 The monster saw me and I stared back  
 We both never said anything for a long time 100  
 Finally with a lump in my throat  
 I said, "Monster I forgive you."  
 The monster broke into tears  
 The monster cried and cried  
 His huge shoulders shook 105  
 He motioned for me to come forward  
 He asked me to sit on his lappy stairs  
 The monster spoke  
 You know I didn't like my Government Father  
 I didn't like my Catholic Church Mother 110  
 I'm glad the Native People adopted me  
 They took me as one of their own  
 They fixed me up Repaired my mouth of double doors

Washed my window eyes with cedar and fir boughs  
 They cleansed me with sage and sweet grass 115  
 Now my good spirit lives  
 The Native People let me stay on their land  
 They could of burnt me you know instead they let me live  
 so People can come here to school restore or learn about their culture  
 The monster said, "I'm glad the Native People gave me another chance 120  
 I'm glad Dennis you gave me another chance  
 The monster smiled  
 I stood up I told the monster I must go Tasted my strong pride  
 I hate you residential school I hate you  
 You're a monster  
 Your throat muscles forced me  
 Down to your stomach 45  
 Your throat muscles squeezed my happiness  
 Squeezed my dreams  
 Squeezed my native voice  
 Your throat became clogged with my sacred spirit  
 You coughed and you choked 50  
 For you cannot with stand my  
 Spiritual songs and dances  
 I hate you residential school I hate you  
 You're a monster  
 Your stomach upset every time I wet my bed 55  
 Your stomach tumbled with anger  
 Every time I fell asleep in church  
 Your stomach grewed at me every time I broke the school rules  
 You felt satisfied You rubbed your belly and you didn't care 60  
 You didn't care how you ate up my native Culture  
 You didn't care if you were messy  
 if you were piggy  
 You didn't care as long as you ate up my Indianness  
 I hate you Residential School I hate you 65  
 You're a monster  
 Your veins clotted with cruelty and torture  
 Your blood poisoned with loneliness and despair

Your heart was cold it pumped fear into me  
I hate you Residential School I hate you 70  
You're a monster  
Your intestines turned me into foul entrails  
Your anal squeezed me  
squeezed my confidence  
squeezed my self respect 75  
Your anal squeezed  
then you dumped me  
Dumped me without parental skills  
without life skills  
Dumped me without any form of character 80  
without individual talents  
without a hope for success  
Ahead of me is my life. My people are waiting for me  
I was at the door of my chevy pony 125  
The monster spoke, "Hey you forgot something  
I turned around I saw a ghost child running down the cement steps  
It ran towards me and it entered my body  
I looked over to the monster I was surprised  
I wasn't looking at a monster anymore 130  
I was looking at an old school in my heart I thought  
This is where I earned my diploma of survival  
I was looking at an old Residential School who  
became my elder of my memories  
I was looking at a tall building with four stories 135  
Stories of hope  
Stories of dreams  
Stories of renewal  
and Stories of tomorrow 139