

DRAFT

Help Wanted: Spectrum Folks to Design TA MOOSK.

PLEEEASE. HELP. ME.

Note: this was to be the introduction to this whole section. As I went to put it to bed I realize it is a back-story to a help-wanted ad for interested spectrum folks so that they would get a sense of my goals for this internode of TA MOOSK.

Ace Tests Moosk (ATMOOSK) has some interesting stuff for those of us with autism as we prepare for standardized tests. (Note: we are all *with* autism on one way or another.) As the Szymborska quote suggests, we contend with the constancy of inconstancy. What are its systems? What can we do to get oriented ourselves and amongst and for one another? Our students were masters at orienting toward the sensible: if things made sense – if we made things make sense – they got oriented eventually. For all of us, the world was astonishing when we were, astonishingly, there. We all had our ways of ways of clarifying and coaxing from rigidity or chaos, comforting and challenging, feeling and relating, in thinking and expressing ideas, in moving and sensing, in working and habits of life. Everything mattered. What happens, what has happened, what will happen – outside each of us, inside each of us, and where we intersect. What, when, where, how, to whom, and why. It was all both lived and considered together, it was “life writ for life,” (as we were from the tradition of the great Fritz Redl's therapeutic milieu, his answer to the warehousing of children away from these systems of life).

Canons of knowledge that the MOOSK is built from are sensible, systemized things (except at their edges). As I've said elsewhere, each discipline has a canon. Each canon is comprised of that which is consistently observed, analyzed, categorized, classified, defined, known, as well as that which is consistently known as most excellent, powerful, compelling of that which is ineffable. Actors claiming status within these disciplines are responsible for knowing this canon, while, at the same time, testing its veracity, extending its limits, and blasting through its boundaries and charting its overlaps with other disciplines as new thought occurs, new forms of expression are created, new means of study are developed, new findings are made, and for – in so far as their temperament allows – proffering their creations and discoveries to other scholars and the public for consideration, response, and critique.

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There are two TA MOOSK parts especially for those of us with autism below. In one, *Stages and Changes*, are test materials about the systems that help us to make sense of our world's constant inconstancy. In the other, Sometimes books (*sometimes this is one thing, sometimes Its another*), are books that celebrate constancy in the midst of change. *Stages and Changes* is only the crescent moon on the toenail of the littlest toe of a one-day old putti's teeny foot at the outer edge of a giant fountain.