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The Creative Launcher

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Unpacking Dialogic and Liberatory Pedagogy

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Welcome to Dice High School!
The sign post near the doorway announces
The inquirer
Stepping out of his automobile
Heads towards the red brick building
Navigating the labyrinth of hallways
Indoors
To an honors class
Site of his literacy research
Rectangular-shaped
Desks in rows with aisles
Facing the front of the classroom
Factory-style
Teacher stands in front of the class
Her pedagogy exhibits
The ‘Banking Model’ of learning
Characterized by suppressive teacher-led learning
Rooted in limitless orders, quiet, and passivity

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Authorizing teachers as "experts"

Consigning Learners as "empty vessels" to be filled

Perpetuating systemic disenfranchisement of student voice

In sum, a plague of silence

Devaluated by Paulo Freire –

“Leaders [teachers] who do not act dialogically,

but insist on imposing their decisions,

do not organize the people--they manipulate them.

They do not liberate, nor are they liberated: they oppress.”

Gaw king at the hapless “empty vessels”

Fatigued by long lectures

Some drifting off to sleep

Others clowning, upset or unruly

The inquirer envisions

Freire turning over in his grave

Watching the rot in the system

Yet reiterating –

“Liberating education consists in acts of cognition,

not transferrals of information.”