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Meet Lateef McLeod

I was born on Friday, August 13, 1980 with cerebral palsy due to complications during birth. This disability affected my motor control of my muscles and as a result I could not walk independently or communicate clearly verbally.

In preschool I started using a wheelchair and when I was mainstreamed in the first grade I was introduced to my first augmentative communication device, the touch talker. This touch talker was one of the reasons why my school district agreed to mainstream me so I was partly indebted to it to allow me to pursue my further education. Now that I have a B.A. in English from U.C. Berkeley and a M.F.A in Creative Writing from Mills, I fully appreciate the success that using different augmentative communication devices have brought me. The two communication devices that I have now, the Lightwriter and the Dynawrite, are essential to my independent life style and I don't know what I would do with out them.

I am already a published writer having my poems published on the websites for Poetry.com, June Jordan's Poetry for the People (poetryforthepeople.com), and Inglis House Poetry Workshop (www.geocities.com/IHPoetry) and was also in anthologies put out by all three of these organizations. I am personally excited about working with the AAC-RERC Writer's Brigade and learn more about different AAC devices and the AAC community as a whole.



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