

## THE DAILY GRIND - in tribute to *World Teachers Day*

The word ground...is a noun...that defines the very spot I'm standing on now  
But it can also be a verb as the past tense of grind  
And when I think of that word a whole different picture comes to mind  
See I can hit the daily grind. I can grind you down. And I can bring you to a grinding stop.  
Which is how every teacher feels when the hands hit three o'clock.  
And still we turn up.

See education is a changing beast.  
Once taught the three Rs now it's probably the topic talked about least  
Not sure if we're meant to educate or medicate  
Fundamental motor skills replaced with fundamental social skills  
And still.....we turn up

You see we're living in a new world of instant gratification  
Where no accountability and a sense of entitlement is the manifestation  
People are happy to pay \$4.50 for a coffee but not 50 cents for an app,  
Then smile at the barista, look them in the eyes whilst posting online that their service was crap  
And schools are not exempt from this unrealistic expectation  
People tweeting and binge eating the stories they read on social media about education  
An unrealistic reality confusing fact from fallacy  
Making demands so matter of factually  
And still we turn up

So busy trying to justify our actions and defend our selves  
Looking after everyone else with no time to worry about our own mental health  
The whole system needs changing with a force so strong it would move a continental shelf  
It's like being asked to cure an epidemic with vaccinations that are local  
When we need far more than a general anaesthetic I'm talking something global  
And in all of this confusion we see through the illusions  
Turn up everyday and keep doing what we're doing

See in order to grind something down you need to apply pressure  
But when applied in the right amount can result in some of life's simplest pleasures  
See you need to grind beans to make coffee, crush grapes to make wine  
So this goes out to you. The educators.  
The diamond makers.

It's why we still turn up.

Time after time after time.

Niel Smith  
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