

A Mother's Light

When I read the prompt for graduate story submissions, I thought, “I’m just a mom—I haven’t done any light-spreading around the world.” My days are spent breaking up fights over Hot Wheels and fumbling to stay one step ahead on meals. That doesn’t typically feel like a direct application of my master’s in English.

But I did learn to seek truth when I studied rhetoric as a graduate student. Rhetoric is more than persuasion: it’s the commitment to find and articulate truth in our spheres of influence. John Duffy argues that first-year writing students, who are learning principles of rhetoric, are actually practicing virtues such as honesty, accountability, tolerance, and respectfulness. That hit home, especially when I taught that course myself. I’ve always cared about what is true; college helped me hone the skills to recognize truth and share it.

Truth-seeking is light-spreading: “For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light” (D&C 84:45). I may not be a globetrotter using my education to spread light. But I am filling my sphere of influence—where my children currently reside—with the light of truth, and that application of my education is priceless.