

# Freedom

By Lehla Eldridge



Part One



understanding  
unschooling  
through the eyes of a curious cat



I AM CURIOUS...



AND THIS IS FREEDOM...

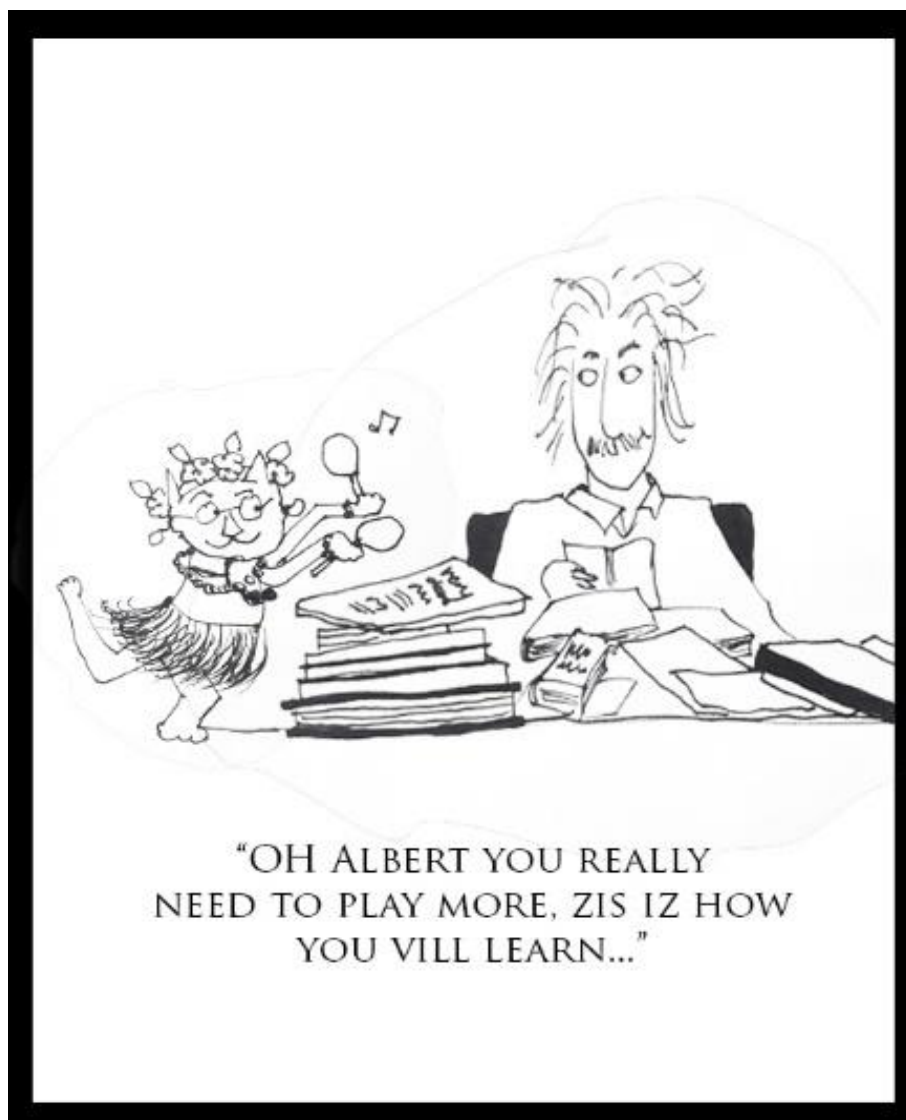
I want to tell you about my curious self, unschooling and Freedom, who is my owner. Or do I own her? We will never know.

If you could consider unschooling to be a large sumptuous, feast of life then in this short book I would like to offer you a chance to sample a mouthful.

Sometimes, I notice that Freedom gets pretty misunderstood. People think that she just plays all

day...

Well, she does. As my Great, Great, Great, Great Grandmother used to say to her owner Albert Einstein, you really should play more! When did you last play?



So what does Freedom do all day? Let us have a look...

I obviously can't keep my eye on her all the time, as I have to sleep but here is a snap shot of yesterday, a morsel, a spoonful of Freedom's day.



CYCLING



COMPUTERS



PHOTOGRAPHY



COOKING

READING



FILMING

Let's breakdown that down for those of you trying to understand what Freedom is all about.

## Cooking

She loves to cook and to cook she has had to learn how to use a cook book. She has had to understand all of those numbers, weights, grams and fractions.

Freedom knows the better she is at understanding the recipe the better the cake will be. Ultimately with Freedom it is all about the cake and it is really that simple.



## Technology

Freedom loves technology. Freedom loves to play on computers. She meets her friends on Skype, she finds out stuff. She watches films, listens to music, plays Minecraft, learns about history, she loves technology. She also loves her tablet; she documents the things that bring her world to life. Technology and Freedom go very well together.



## Reading

Freedom taught herself to read. She reads novel after novel. She learns about history through these books.

She learns grammar and very long words, which quite frankly I struggle to understand. She tells me that she

learns about good and evil and the complexities of

human existence. But what she really learns we will

never know as Freedom is her own person. And

Freedom does not have to show to anyone what she

knows, as only she knows what she knows.





## Cycling/Having Responsibility/Doing Grown Up Stuff

Freedom LOVES responsibility, she loves to do the things that adults do. Obviously she can't drive a car yet but she likes to do things and to know in herself that she can do it!



## What about Socialization?

I hear you ask...I can hear you, as I am a cat and that is what cats do we hear your thoughts...

Doesn't Freedom get lonely?

This is a good question. Does Freedom have friends?

Yes, and they are of all ages, some are old, some are very young and she loves them all. But as for

loneliness...hhhmm isn't loneliness just a state of mind?

You would have to ask her how she feels about this as only Freedom knows what Freedom knows.



## What About Tests and Results?

You could say if nobody is testing her how do we know what Freedom is actually learning? Well it is clear to me that only Freedom knows that answer and to me I can see her life is unfolding exactly as it should...

However it is true to say that I have pondered on this topic and in my curious life I have seen many

unschooled children of all ages come and go. Here is where my curious research has lead me.

There are three discoveries that I would like to share with you. When they love something, they LOVE something, they follow their passions with endless curiosity, they learn things quickly and as nobody is forcing them to learn they jump in with both feet, sometimes for hours, days, weeks, years! Another thing I have noticed is this, cats and children who are like Freedom, have one thing in common, it is a precious thing that money cannot buy. That those who reach the ends of their lives often long for...it is that precious, wonderful, magical, possibly forgotten thing called TIME. Do you hear how profound and simple that is? I, being a cat understand the beautiful bounteous weightlessness of time.

If it takes a very long time to learn something, it is just that, taking time to learn. If on the contrary it takes a very short time to learn something than that is what it is, time being used wisely. These unschooled children are not constricted by the bounds of that thing that tricks and tangles so many of you humans up in knots.

Freedom doesn't notice time as when she is busy nothing will stop her, well perhaps her stomach will, as she does like to eat, oh and like me if her eyelids droop then of course she will go to bed.

Oh and there is a third thing... I have noted a very strange phenomenon. Children like Freedom.... Well, they tend to sing.

However, what they sing only they will know as it is the song of their lives that plays upon their lips and

expresses what their small souls are feeling. I being a curious cat will often fall asleep listening to their music and trying to understand the melodies of Freedom.

I hope very much that you have enjoyed your first morsel of this sumptuous meal. There will be more to follow, many courses, it is a grand meal that I am happy to offer you and that may take a life time to eat.

As for Freedom, she is singing herself to sleep and what she has learned today we will never know as only Freedom knows what Freedom knows...



*To be continued....*

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