

**Abstract:** Although reading about another culture in a book can, as Emily Dickinson (1999) once wrote, serve as that “Frigate...To take us Lands away,” the need for immersion in a physical space that differs from what we regularly know proves paramount for personal growth. This retrospective praxis piece weaves in journal excerpts written during a secondary ELA teacher’s travels and reflects on how these experiences shaped the development of her criticality and curriculum design. The work addresses the importance of experiencing places and cultures that may prove unfamiliar and may influence one’s growth and development as an educator. It also examines how traveling with critical literacy lenses influenced the way the author experienced a place.

**Key Words:** cultural context, immersion, Indigenous education, journaling, reflection, travel as a teacher, critical literacy