

Carbon High School 2022 Graduation

“Up”

by Cami Carlson

When you're young, your whole world is up.

Eighteen years ago, you would spit up, couldn't sit up, wouldn't hush up,
And your parents thought that maybe they couldn't wait for you to grow up.

But you changed and you grew, and you became you, and Heaven knows it wasn't easy for any
You made friends, you lost friends, you knew victory and tasted defeat, but you didn't retreat.
You were knocked down, and you consistently chose to get back up.

You played sports, you debated, you were loved, you were hated, you got dumped, and you dated
again.

You joined clubs, choir, drama, color guard, and band,
And when things didn't go as planned, you always seemed to land right-side up.

COVID came here your sophomore year, and with it came fear about the future and the present.
The world turned upside down, but you masked up and stood up to face it.

This year, despite the nearly constant banging and clanging of construction,
You kept maintaining your grades - and your sanity.
And now here you are this day in May, your graduation day
Because day after day you got up and chose to show up.

You're surrounded by teachers, faculty, and staff, all here on your behalf, and we love you.
We have witnessed your bravery, we have watched you be scared,
And if you thought we never cared, you could not have been more wrong.
We may have told you a time or two to toughen up, to wake up, or to straighten up,
But only because we wanted you to have a leg up on your competition.

Mrs. Mathis didn't teach you the quadratic formula song because she really likes to sing-
You see, that's the thing, she taught you so that it would ring a bell when you saw a question on
the test,

And you could sing to yourself, “ $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.”

She wasn't filling a personal vocal need- she wanted you to succeed.

Mr. Thompson didn't offer to help you with your algebra because he loves mixing numbers with
letters-

No, it is the time with you that he treasures, and helping you was a pleasure for him.

Mrs. Scoville led clubs with no pay

Because the only pay needed was to hear you convey your gratitude.

In yoga, Trish taught you warrior, knowing warrior is more than a pose- it's an attitude.

Mrs. Bryner and Mrs. Baker never gave up on you and saw you all the way through,
And I could go on and on too
Since we do what we do because we love being with you,
And there is nothing better than seeing your beautiful faces light up.

Now, as you leave Carbon High with your dreams in the sky where they should be,
Believe that you can do hard things because all things that are worth it are hard.
Don't say that for you it's not in the cards- you can change your stars
Because it doesn't matter where you came from- all that matters now is where you are going,
So rise up!

Whether your future is in the armed forces, a mission, a job, or more school, remember this rule:
"You can't change the wind, but you can adjust your sails."¹
Never give up.

Don't let others decide what dreams you can achieve.
Dream big dreams, set big goals, then work hard, and believe.
Pursue whatever dreams that you can dream up.

Be kind. People are inclined to remember how you make them feel,
So don't tear people down. Build them up.

There will be waves, so ride them. Surf's up!
Life will teach you lessons. Listen up.
You'll get beat up, banged up, fired up, mixed up, and choked up, but keep your chin up.
You'll be told to be silent, but speak up.
You'll be told to sit back, but step up!

Because there will be amazing things, too, out there just for you,
So grab the bull by the horns, and cowboy up.
Life is beautiful, so live it up.

And as you go out into the great big world that is waiting for you, Class of 2022,
Tear it up!

Make every day count because for you, right now, the whole world is up.

¹ The exact origin of this quote has been difficult to find, but Cora L. V. Hatch seems to be the first person to express the idea in 1859. However, I adapted the wording from Bertha Calloway's "A Shining Thread of Hope" written in 1998.

