

Judgment & Changing Minds

I didn't know what the judge meant
when he said I lacked remorse.
And so upstate is where I went,
my life so far off course.

But I was determined to put in the work,
to understand that judge.
I read and I railed against old ways of thinking,
and soon after felt them budge.

I know now that my own poor judgment
is what landed me here.
And my new and improved critical thinking
is what will see me clear.

One day soon I'll leave this place,
and with it the hurt and shame.
I'll demonstrate in how I live,
through better judgment
I overcame.

KRIS L.
Pennsylvania

Thank You FOR READING!

Below are some questions to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use one as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

When Kris refers to "putting in the work" in order to change old ways of thinking, what kind of "work" do you think he's talking about?

What are some ways you've found to help you move beyond poor judgment and develop better self-reflection and critical thinking?

We'd love to hear what you thought of the piece, or if you've had any meaningful conversations as a result. Or perhaps you'd like to share an expression of your own (visual art or creative writing). You are always welcome to write to us at Shining Light at P.O. Box 267, Annville, PA 17003.

**Note: We will not be able to provide a response to your letter or receipt of your submission, but know that we value your feedback and contributions and will take them seriously.*

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