

ELF “ Over the Rainbow”

SUGGESTIONS:

For an effective program, cut strips of crepe paper or ribbon for the seven colors of the rainbow. Align the colors in the proper order and allow the rainbow to descend to a pot of gold. A rainbow can be built as you develop your program. As each color is named, add the crepe paper streamer to a poster or background with a pot of gold underneath. If a brass or gold-covered container is not available, cover a punch bowl with gold foil.

OVER THE RAINBOW

Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true
Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly;
Birds fly over the rainbow,
Why then, oh why, can't I
WHAT IS A RAINBOW?

Light is a combination and integration of all colors and a rainbow is the reflection or bending of light through the raindrops. When light is broken into its constituent parts, the lovely tones of seven separate colors are revealed. Life cannot continue without light. How dreary and drab, tedious and tiresome the world would be without the red rays of the dawn, the opalescent tints of twilight, the glint of gold of little children's hair and the cheerful coloring of birds, flowers and woodlands! Color is to life as a ray of light is to sunshine.

PURPOSE

We admired the rainbow as a symbol of blessings. P.E.O.s are committed to share blessings to women through education. The colors of the rainbow are ever constant in their pattern, always in the same order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. As consistent as the rainbow colors are so is the purpose of the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF). ELF provides opportunities for women to pursue their education with a low (2 %) loan. ELF is as an important a source for women now as it was in its development in 1907. ELF provides a rainbow of opportunity for all women..

RED

Red is a sunset
Blazy and bright,
Red is feeling brave
With all your might!*

Red is a strong, vigorous color. In our modern world, red usually means STOP. For P.E.O.'s it mean Stop and help women realize they can reach their educational goals with this low interest loan. With the cost of education rising, and federal funds for higher education reducing and their interest rates rising, it has become more difficult for many college students to finance their education. ELF is a great way to help women set their education goals on fire!

ORANGE

Orange is brave,
Orange is bold
It's bittersweet
And marigold.*

The ELF chair and her committee need to be brave and bold in becoming well informed about the policies and guidelines of ELF. There are many resources available from the Intl P.E.O. website, to the Georgia website to brochures the office in Des Moines. These policies include a loan for undergraduate, technical or professional certification can be up to \$12,000, for a Bachelor's \$15,000, for a Master's \$20,000 and for a Doctorate \$25,000. The applicant needs one other co-signer to help them secure this loan. Are you brave enough to help this women secure a loan?

YELLOW

Yellow is the color of the sun,
The feeling of fun;
Yellow's mimosa, and I guess
Yellow's the color of happiness.*

Happiness is sponsoring an E.L.F. student! The ELF Committee should follow three steps: interview, introduction and sponsorship. ELF Chair and/or her committee interview the candidate and whenever possible is introduced to the chapter as well. The committee shares background information of the applicant to the chapter. The chapter then conducts a vote by a voice vote on whether or not to sponsor her for a loan. Following a favorable voice vote, the chair completes the Chapter Recommendation Form online and writes a letter furnishing a complete description of the candidate – her background, abilities, interests, schooling, educational plans, and other pertinent facts. This letter is most important; as it is the first contact the trustees have with applicant.. An application along with other necessary forms will then be sent to the student.

GREEN

Green is a flutter
That comes in spring
When frost melts out
Of everything.*

Green means "GO", and go we must in finding women in need of our assistance. The application process is open year round and she must be within 6-24 months of graduation or course completion. Monthly payments begin six months following graduation date so the candidate has a chance to Grow before the first payment is due.

BLUE

Blue is the color of the sky
Without a cloud
Cool, distant, beautiful
And proud.*

A blue flame is the flame of intense heat. Your enthusiasm will be the blue flame that will keep the ELF chair burning with zeal for this project and its purpose. Read carefully, counsel wisely, assist the student with her budget and help her complete all forms carefully. Delays are caused when applications have to be returned for further information. How beautiful the cloudless sky will seem when your applicant receives her full loan amount knowing she can complete her education. But keep in touch with your applicant even after approval of her loan. There will be blue skies up above when together you celebrate “PAID IN FULL.”

INDIGO

Time is indigo
Just before night
When most people
Turn on the Light.*

It takes time to get references, transcripts, credit memos and approval from the trustees. Allow plenty of time before the first installment is needed. Eight weeks to 90 days is usually the minimum time in which a loan can be processed.

PURPLE

The purple sound
Is the loveliest thing
It's a violet opening
In the spring.*

Purple is the principle color of royalty and represents leadership. References and co-signers (along with credit memos) are a very important part of the application. Our repayment record is very good with only about 1% or less not paid back.

THE POT OF GOLD

In legends and fairy tales there is a pot of gold to be found at the end of the rainbow. ELF can make wishes come true for women in need of financial assistance by helping them complete their educational goals, thus enabling them to locate satisfying, productive careers. Chapters can bring all of the colors together into a rainbow of promise the fulfillment of a dream. With your help our applicants will find that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

* “From Hailstones and Halibut Bones”, Mary O’Neill.

Source: Utah State Chapter, 1992

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