

I have a great job  
in the universe of occupations.  
What do I do?

I'm  
a "star  
polisher."

It's a very  
important job.

If you want to know how important,  
just go out at night and look at the  
stars twinkling and sparkling.

You see, I'm a teacher. The stars are  
the children in my class. My job is to  
take them—in whatever shape they  
come—and shine and buff them  
and then send them out to take their  
places as bright, twinkling beacons  
in the sky.

They come into my room in all shapes  
and sizes. Sometimes they're bent,  
tarnished, dirty, crinkly, or broken.  
Some stars are cuddly and soft. Some  
are prickly and thorny.

As I buff and polish, I train and teach  
my little stars; I tell them that the world  
cannot do without them. I tell them  
they can do anything they set their  
minds to. I tell them they can be the  
brightest, shiniest stars in the sky and  
the world will be a better place  
because of them.

Each night as I look at the sky, I'm  
reminded of my very important job  
and awesome responsibility. Then I  
get my soft buffing cloth and my  
bottle of polish in preparation for  
tomorrow...for my class of little stars.

—Leah Becks