



TECHER - WHO IS A TEACHER?

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Through many years, teaching has always been included in the list of the most sought- after professions in the world. Looking back at my grade school days, one of my teachers would ask us to write what we wanted to be when we grew up; and many of us answered, Teacher. As a pupil, I looked up to my mentors who served as my second parent at school. And I wondered how teachers were able to do their responsibilities and be a mother or a father at the same time to many children. Since I had been at school for sixteen years (from kindergarten to university, no middle school in the Philippines), I was able to come up with the four key qualities of a good and effective teacher.

A teacher has a deep knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter. An educator comes to class well-prepared for the day's lesson, and is ready to answer questions from his students. Understanding of the topic is essential; nevertheless, he should be able to impart it to his students as well.

A teacher is patient. Pupils and students will always test the temper of a teacher. In pre-school, one must be able to handle a chaotic situation in a calm and composed manner, no matter how mischievous the kids are. Also, he should be able to tolerate children with erratic behavior without annoyance.

A teacher is ingenious. An instructor has to keep the interest of the students all the time. It is undeniable that not all lessons are interesting. The teacher should be smart enough to discover new and bright ideas on how to present the subject matter in an attractive way. The use of the latest methodology and teaching approach can make a boring subject exciting.

A teacher is passionate to her profession. Handling a number of students in a class is not a piece of cake. Despite the challenges that a teacher has to meet every day, a good mentor is someone who puts his heart into his career. The passion that the educator displays encourages the learners to work harder. Passion is indeed contagious. Hearing success stories of former students certainly make a teacher blissfully happy. Whether acknowledged or not, the teacher will always be the greatest fan of her students.

As we headed to the twentieth century, a child's dream of becoming a future teacher for the next generation has slowly faded. The minds of the young are yet to be molded and nurtured. But is there anybody willing to continue the task? "The task of an excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people" (K. Patricia Cross).

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was your favorite teacher? Describe him/her.
2. What are the qualities of a good and effective teacher?
3. What other qualities should a teacher possess?
4. How has your teacher influenced you?
5. Would you like to be a teacher?