Name of Teacher: Ben

Name of SS: Christine

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**Essay # 1:**

**Don’t be afraid to be yourself!**

**“The secret of Education lies in respecting the pupil”**

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

*“The secret of Education lies in respecting the pupil,”*There is one teacher who is remembered for a long time in my memory and reminds me of this wise saying. Her name was Jane Doe, and she was my English teacher at High school in Canada. She influenced me much about my whole perspective of how teacher should be.

One spring day of 2004, right after I finished my 1st grade –when I was 18years old- of high school, I left Korea for Montreal, Canada to study English by myself. And I transferred to St. George’s High School. It was Jewish school where 90% of students were Jewish, and I was the only Korean student which English was my second language.

I still remember my first day when I stepped into English class room. I was nervous and excited for new environment and new experience. As I entered in, everyone’s attention was on me, a new Asian transferred student English was her second language.

It is said that out of reverence for teacher, student should not even step on his shadow in Korean old wise saying. As a Korean kid who was brought up under Confucian culture, Canadian classroom brought me a big culture shock. Students seemed free but somewhat aggressive to me.

Ms. Jane Doe was strict and authoritative when it comes to teaching the subject matter. There was no grey area to her. It reminded me of most of my past Korean teachers’ teaching style, yet she was thoughtful and sensitive enough to respect each student’s situation and ability. For example, she let me sit next to her and took extra care of me regarding teaching schedule and home works, but treated equally to other native students in every situation.

The most impressive memory I have for her was on Halloween day. She came to school with Hip-Hop Baggy jeans with funky hair style. Not only myself but also whole school were in awe of surprise, because her style was very neat and tidy every day. Not every student liked her, some student hated her so much that even nick named her “Smiling Bi\*\*\*.” She simply brought sensation to our class that day.

Now that I learn about teaching techniques in Tesol class, I realized that she was authentic to herself. She did not afraid to be herself. I guess she knew exactly where she is standing up, and she knew well about her aim. Even though I did not have great grade in English subject, I started to slowly let go of fear I had in English and tried to speak more in English to people. Classmates helped me a lot, too. By the time I finished the course I became friends with many people and English was not stressful to me anymore. It was fun to pick up different expressions and sentences every day.

Language is not only a means of communication; it is a door for exploring into different culture. For I met good teacher, I have only good memories about Canada and people I met there, even all other English speakers, because language helps understand them better. I want to be a good teacher who leaves good memories to somebody.