**My Dream as a Teacher of English Learners**

**KTTT 121 WD Claire CHOI**

 It has been almost two weeks since I have started taking TESOL class. To be honest, I never have given a serious thought when I was deciding to take the class. I think I just made a spontaneous decision within a few hours. On my first day at Times TESOL, I was feeling like an ugly duckling almost the whole time. It was because everyone sitting in the class seemed to be very determined about what they actually are going to learn and I was not. However, it has been absolutely pleasant interacting with Dr. Frank and other teachers to be and I actually am seeing myself enjoying learning new things every day.

 On our very first class, we had this reading called "A Teacher's Story" that was shared in the class. It was about Mrs. Thompson, the 5th grade teacher and Teddy, Mrs. Thompson's student who seemed to be not as bright as her other students. After Mrs. Thompson realized what Teddy has been through, she started putting more effort on him. In the end, Teddy became very successful in his career and the personal life and he thanked Mrs. Thompson for all the things she has done for him. However, Mrs. Thompson thanked Teddy for teaching her what a teacher is and that she could make a difference in her students' life. It truly was a beautiful story.

 While reading the story, I could not help but wonder if I could be like Mrs. Thomson and I am not even close to becoming like her yet. However, the story gave me an opportunity to think for the first time what kind of teacher I actually want be. Impacting or making difference on someone's life definitely are not easy since they cannot be done in a day not to mention that they should not be done without the best interest for students.

 In this essay, I will be discussing what would be an ideal teacher in my point of view. Everyone can easily picture, in his or her head, a teacher who has love and respect from his or her students. After reading the story of Mrs. Thompson and Teddy, I am now dreaming to be a teacher who truly loves my students. This may sound a bit corny but I do mean it. My concern is that if I could love all my future students equally. In the story, Mrs. Thompson ended up loving every single student in her class. However, did she love someone more than the others? I think she did end up loving Teddy at least a little bit more than her other students and I cannot blame her. I am sure I will be more likely to feel attached and reach out to students who need more attention. There always will be a student, like Teddy, who needs more attention than most of the students. These students may be having difficulties following the class and some of them can be shy to participate in the class even though they know what the teacher is asking them to do.

 I would like to be a teacher who takes extra time to learn each and every one of my students. As a teacher, I want my students to feel always welcome to talk to me whenever they want to. It could be about the class or anything. It won't be easy to try and learn every little details of each of my students, of course. However, I want to be there for my students who need me. This could be happening only after I gain my students' trust and in order to gain their trust, I should not be waiting for students to come and talk to me first with their issues. I should be the one who reaches out, especially the ones who are having difficulties, following my class.

 I was wondering how I can help these students by not making them feel like they are not good enough for the class and not making the rest of the class realize that these students are taking the class with difficulties. It sure will be very difficult. What worked well with one of my favorite English teachers was that she regularly had the individual sessions with her students and it usually happened on Fridays. I do not think she thought that she was wasting and loosing the class time when we had individual counseling day. During the time, she would start the session by asking how I am doing. We would talk about what had been working well in the class and what had been difficult for that week. At first, I was quite hesitant to talk to her about anything but as it happened every week, I saw myself unloading my stories to her and she would not just give feedbacks but also share her stories too. It helped me overcome the slump I was facing that time. She would adjust her classes with my feedback. I believe I was able to share my story with her because I genuinely felt she did care.

 What I would like to do in the class is that I do not forget to compliment students. When I look back to those times I was learning English conversation, the compliments from my English teachers made me build my confidence over time. There is a saying that praising can even make a whale dance in Korea. Without the positive feedbacks from my teachers, I might have given up learning English at some point. Especially, when I was feeling like I did not fit in the class because of my poor English, compliments made me think I am getting better and that made me want to work harder. Therefore, I believe I could be more patient with my students and encourage them to speak up and participate in the class by giving them some compliments.

 I truly believe that because of the great teachers I have met, I am here right now. There were so many times I wanted to give up learning English but I was able to overcome those dark moments with my teachers' help. Not only my English has improved because of my teachers but also my life and my personality have been positively affected. I would love to see, in ten years, the positive changes that I affect on my students and knowing that could hopefully make me work harder to be more involved with my students so that I learn more and more to become a better teacher every day.