My First English Teacher Gina

TESOL 138TH

Nayun

I was six years old when I first went to Michigan, the United States. I didn’t know anything about English even ABC. When I first went to preschool, the teacher asked me a simple question in class. But I couldn’t answer it because I couldn’t understand a word. I still remember that I was embarrassed.

My mother knew that I needed help in English and she tried to find me an English teacher. After asking acquaintance, one of them introduced a teacher. Her name was Gina. Gina was interested in Korean culture and she was teaching ESL classes in school. She had brown hair and green eyes.

Gina taught me from ABC. She taught me how to read, listen, speak, and write. As she taught me I followed her. I followed what she wrote and repeated what she said. She also read me books and instructed me to read it. She read a variety of books to me. I still have the book ‘Frog and Toad are Friends’ which Gina read and gave me as a gift. She taught me English sincerely one by one. I remember that she was never angry at me.

We also played card games together in the end of each class such as UNO and cards picturing animals. Through the card games, I could learn English words with delight playing with Gina. One day, I lost continuously in the game that I was upset. My mother told Gina how I felt and asked her to lose on purpose. My mother should have said that secretly because I still remember hearing that in shock.

As my English teacher taught me, I became better in English. I became to have no difficulty in school. I followed the classes and had conversation with friends from different countries.

When I was eight years old, I had to say goodbye to Gina since I had to go back to Korea.

I appreciate Gina for teaching me English. If it weren’t for her I would have a lot of difficulty living in Michigan. It must have been hard for her to teach a child who doesn’t even know ABC. Honestly, I can’t remember a lot about her because I was so young. But I have such a good memory about her that when I think about her I feel happiness. She not only taught me English but gave care and love. I miss her.

By applying concepts learned in the TESOL class, first of all I believe Gina had ‘EAR’. ‘EAR’ represents for respect, empathy and authenticity. She showed respect as she was positive regard for me and liked me. Also, she had empathy because when I fought with a friend, she sincerely consoled me. Moreover, she showed authenticity as she was not pretending but acting like herself.

Secondly, in regarding kinds of teacher, Gina was both the explainer and the involver. As it was my first time to study English, Gina had to first explain to me. She conveyed information through explaining or lecturing. Then as I improved in English, she tried to involve me activity such as playing card games using English vocabulary.

Last but not least, I believe that in order to be a good teacher, one should not be indifferent to students and have a good heart toward them. A good heart means helping students to become a better person and truly wanting them to have a better life. Gina is so memorable to me and still important in my life because she not only taught me English but also love.