‘My Dream as a Teacher of Young English Learners’

KTC183 First Essay Sanghwa Ko Julia

I hope to gain not only the technique to teach English but also the way to understand young learners from the California State University Long Beach Office of Continuing and Professional Education Times Media TESOL for Children Certification Program Class Number one hundred eighty-three. I think the ability to speak English is not enough to teach English. I would like to learn specialized skills to teach children. Moreover, I understand young learners are impatient to take a class. Therefore, I want to know about young learners so that I can react properly in my classes in the future.

I have had many teachers in my life. I used to call them a teacher, but there are only few of them I remember as a good teacher. I wonder about the difference between the memorable teachers and others. I questioned myself what makes a good teacher that I want to be. There must be many things to make teachers great. Some people might think that giving lots of knowledge to students as much as they can absorb makes a good teacher. Some other people might think that treating students with fairness does. To think of the elements to be a great teacher, I recall two teachers who can be good examples.

I remember my best teacher, Ms. Ji, that I ever had in my whole life. Ms. Ji was my fifth grade’s teacher in elementary school. She did not teach in a normal way like other teachers used to do in class. What she did was use her guitar playing and teach interesting children’s songs in class. Even I was young at that time, I could notice that she really enjoyed singing songs with students and so did her students, including me. One day after the midterm exam of the second semester, Ms. Ji called me to her desk during a break, then she showed me my arithmetic test paper. I saw my score on the top of the paper, it was only about half score compared to the previous test one. I was not surprised by my bad score because I did not study as much as I had before. In fact, I lost my interest in arithmetic as it was getting harder. Then, Ms. Ji started to talk to me. She said that she was worried if there was any problem with my parents or friends. There was nothing to say for me at first. She was staring at me with soft eyes.

I decided to talk to her honestly. I told her that it was not easy to follow the class since arithmetic was getting more difficult. And I told her that there was no problem with my family or friends. Then Ms. Ji held my hands kindly and said that she was relieved that I did not have any personal difficulties. She also said that she had faith in me that I could do better. When I came back home that day, I had very deep thoughts about what Ms. Ji did for me. I was very inspired by her reaction to my bad score. She could have ignored it or punished me like many other teachers would do. However, she asked me if I had any concerns because she respected me as a human being. In addition, she did not think that I was just an accepter what she ordered, she actually let me talk to her openly. If I had any trouble at that time, I would have appreciated her so much. She showed me the true love for me. It was not only the true love for her students and also the belief in them.

Another story is about Ms. Lee, my English teacher in high school. I feel embarrassed to bring this story, but it is one of the most memorable experiences in class that I have never forgot. Ms. Lee was always passionate in her class. One day in the middle of the class after lunch time, I was sleeping in her class. I honestly do not remember how I fell asleep. It is still hard to believe that. I must have been very tired at that moment. Suddenly, I woke up with weird feeling. As soon as I opened my eyes, my eyes met Ms. Lee’s.

She immediately said, “Did you have a good sleep, honey?”.

I was surprised and could not even believed that I had slept in her class. Then she continued her class as if nothing had happened. It happened in such a short time. It was only about 3 seconds. But somehow, I never forget that moment even though it has been over 20 years. What I felt from her was understanding. She could have woken me up and got angry at me. However, she might have thought about herself in my shoes. She tried to understand me and left me alone until I awoke. After that class, I have never slept in any classes. Ms. Lee taught me a valuable thing by letting me sleep in her class. And even though I already have liked English class, she made me like it even more.

I believe that Ms. Ji would do the same if there were other students who seemed to be having trouble. And Ms. Lee would be considerate of her students when her students misbehave. I assume that those two great teachers are the best teacher for many of their students. I have learned the importance of teachers caring about students from their hearts. When teachers truly care about their students, students will notice it and they feel like they are treated with respect. I guess even young children who I am going to teach are also able to feel the same.

Furthermore, another thing I want to focus on as a teacher is listening. Listening as a teacher does not just mean actual listening. It includes attention, observation, and feeling sympathy with students. After 10 years later in my future as a teacher of young English learners, I hope my students remember me as a good listener. Especially for young children, the teacher can have a great impact and make a considerable on their students. I want to be an easy-to-use teacher by showing them the teacher really treats them with respect and always listens to them. Therefore, if my students have a question or a problem with anything, I want them to come to me and talk to me without hesitation.