Let’s All Have Some Fun!

**TCWD 78 / Soo-Yeon Kim**

**Essay Assignment**

**July 18, 2012**

*“I can’t imagine anything more worthwhile than doing what I most love. And they pay me for it.” – Edgar Winter*

If someone asks me why I want to teach children, I guess people might expect ideal answers such as, “Because children are our future, and I’d like to contribute to our society and future by giving proper education to the children.” Of course, this wouldn’t be completely false, but to be honest, it would be more about myself than the future or the society. I want to teach children simply because it’s something I can do while I have fun and enjoy myself, just as Edgar Winter had put it.

I had worked in various fields, from manufacturing toilets, manufacturing medical devices, online credit card transactions services, and English education. Looking back, teaching English to children was the job I enjoyed the most. I felt most alive and every morning it was like leaving for another adventure. I loved the interaction with children, and I’d like to believe that the children, too, had a good and meaningful time with me.

Teaching had been my first job, but I was young and wanted to try new things and learn more. From time to time, I guess I felt like I needed a more challenging job. I was having too much fun, it just didn’t feel like a permanent job. And that was why I moved on looking for other jobs, requiring different skills.

If I had continued teaching, I might have achieved more as a teacher by now. Still, because I had chosen to experience the different fields of work, I can return to becoming a teacher with more confidence, for I can say from heart that teaching is what I enjoy most. Now, starting a new chapter of my life, I don’t want to get a job simply to get paid, I want to do something that brings more meaning to myself.

I feel sorry for the Korean students these days because they all seem to have so many things to do, so many subjects to study starting at such a young age. It’s just too overwhelming. I always believed that childhood is a period where children should be allowed to have fun and enjoy themselves, rather than sit in front of a desk and prepare for their future. I was one of the lucky ones who got the privilege of enjoying my childhood, and I would like my children and students to do so as well. If I can’t change the whole system, I’d still like to give the students a break, at least during classes with me. Instead of simply teaching them another subject, I’d like them to want to come to class and have fun. By doing so, they would not only enjoy themselves, they would also be acquiring English in the process. As Albert Einstein had stated, “Play is the highest form of research.” Children would be acquiring English, and I, too, will hopefully learn more about the children and new techniques for the classroom.

This is one of my main reasons I am taking the Tesol for Children course. I would like to learn more techniques and activities that will help make a more enjoyable English environment. I won’t be able to change the whole Korean education system, but I could at least help my students enjoy a part of their childhood while acquiring the English skills they need. As for me, I can spend the rest of my life doing what I’m best at, continuously develop into a better teacher, and have fun!