Tesol WK 78th

Mee Ae Lee

July 15th 2012

Ben

Statistically, we are going to end up teaching the way we were taught. I hope this quote is true. Because I had been taught English by a wonderful teacher and I really want to be like him. Mr. Kim had been my English teacher for 3years in my elementary school years. He was very fun teacher who knew how to teach. He knew the more students' involvements, the more learning the students will have. His activities were fun. He always gave easy and understandable instructions we could follow. I still remember one of his activities. It was a group activity, but he showed how to play first. He wrote the target vocabularies on the board explains meanings if we didn't know. He held up a square pocket and asked a student to volunteer. Without looking inside, the volunteer would put his one hand in the bag the teacher was holding and told the class how he felt about what he was touching using the target vocabularies like smooth, rough, round, or square. Mr. Kim didn't laugh at the volunteered students when he made some mistakes. Mr. Kim cheered the volunteer to go on with encouraging smile on his face. Then the whole class could guess what was in the bag. After Mr. Kim’s demonstration, it was really fun to watch Mr. Kim handed us five bags with all different objects were inside each bags. In our group one of the members put her hand in the bag and tried to use the target vocabularies to describe the object he/she was touching. When the rest of the group members got the right answer we laughed and giggled. Mine was a paper clip.

 Mr. Kim’s activities were the successful language learning experiences. First, from the activities, the students were not only having fun, but they were interacting with other students sometimes even with the teacher. Learning foreign language is hard task to the children. If the students were in comfortable and secured environment it could help the learners to learn fast. So Mr. Kim made his student to talk to each other and get used to the classroom surroundings. The students could feel free to learn the new language. Second, Mr. Kim was a modern teacher. He knew sit and listen would not help his students to learn and remember what they had been lectured. He made us practice the vocabularies through a simple activity like I remember above. He actually gave his students many chances to talk. But most of the other teachers were not like Mr. Kim. They were all talkers and missing the points that the students were there to learn, not to listen to the teachers all day. Mr. Kim knew why the students were in his class which was to learn. Third, he showed his students his demonstrations first so the students could have an idea what they would do. If Mr. Kim just gave us instructions like “put your one hand in the bag without looking, then use the vocabularies on the board to described what you touch." then I don’t thing the activity would success. Mr. Kim made his demonstration interesting with his funny but attracting voice expression like "ah!" or "woo!" with his funny facial expressions, too.

 I wish I could be like Mr. Kim to my future students. Sometimes I wish I could go back to Mr. Kim’s class and learn more about his teaching skills. He was an authentic teacher because he knew what he was going to teach for the day and planned well with his activities. Also he respected and empathized on his students. Since English was new language to learn, it was natural to us to make mistakes. But Mr. Kim didn't laugh at the volunteer when the volunteer made his mistakes. He wouldn't make fun of any of his students' faults or mistakes. Mr. Kim was the best English teacher I've ever had and I wish someday I will be just like him.