**Everyone needs one good teacher**

*“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.”*

*By Victor Hugo*

Over the course of one’s life, he inevitably encounters many teachers while attending various schools. He is nurtured by kindergarten teachers then is taken care of by elementary school teachers. Every grade of school system provides a person with many teachers of various abilities and personalities. Some of these teachers may be more familiar and helpful while some may prove to be undesirable or even be hated. From the past experiences I have gathered from diverse educational environments, I strongly believe that one good teacher can make astonishing changes that will forever benefit the person’s life.

The first teacher that comes to my mind when I think about a good teacher is Ms. McCabe, my composition instructor from ESL when I was a teenager. Even though she was an extremely strict teacher, she was not biased and treated every student equally. When a student writes a good essay, she would praise his accomplishments. However, her critique of a bad writing was exceptionally fierce. She would applaud the effort in the writing if a hard work put into it was visible even when it does not match her expectations. By going through an intense training under a fair and firm teacher as a teenager, I learned to motivate myself in order to fulfill a goal. A goal that is immediately attainable such as not getting yelled at in next class. Her respect for my accomplishments even when they are minimal has taught me to respect other people’s efforts. These were valuable lessons that cannot be self-taught.

Ms. McCabe’s class was usually a very calm one. Considering that my experience in ESL was in early 1990’s, I can only agree that the class leaned more towards a traditional one. I cannot disagree with the fact that she was a rather uncomfortable person to be with; however, she always had her standards in treading her pupils. There would not be any kind of verbal or physical abuses but only reasonable adjustments on students’ inability to follow in class. She was not particularly a humorous person but always maintained a certain degree of humane atmosphere so that her students may come to her and consult academic questions. Now that I think about the way she treated us, she had always respected us as her apprentices so there was always mutual respect among us when we as her students were not disrespecting or challenging her authority. Ms. McCabe’s class cannot be thought as a super-modern one, but it probably was a lot closer to being a modern one compared to other classes that I attended at the same time.

Ms. McCabe was an authentic instructor and a wonderful explainer. After getting out of the ESL program, I went through almost ten years of high school and college education, and I must admit that her teachings were among the top three beneficial ones in my life. It may be because her instructions had become the foundation of my English composition and grammar that I am still grateful for hard trainings she had put me through. She had a distinct style of teaching where students were instructed thoroughly and were asked to write compositions in class. Her explanations were so fabulous that we seldom had trouble understanding the concepts. However, implementing the learning was not as easy as it sounded. She would check every sentence for the right usage and placement, and everyone was afraid that the whole writing may be criticized for failing to follow her directions. Ms. McCabe’s strength was her extreme clearness in explaining things to students and her clear and positive feedbacks. There is no need to mention her vast and thorough knowledge in teaching English was the basis of my respect for her influences.

Ms. McCabe may not be the only good teacher that I have had; however, I am positive that she is one of the very few that always come to mine when I think of a person that has had the most influences in my life. She has guided me through the first years of living in a foreign land by enthusiastically sharing her experiences as an ESL teacher. I learned to be a person that can respect others and be unbiased in treating them. Her influences were majorly in lingual education, but she also helped in shaping my personality by showing how a respected and established person acted. She was not only my English teacher but also an instructor for life.