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My Best Teacher

The best teacher I have met so far is Mrs. Grefaldia. She taught me theoretical and practical aspect of English for about a year and a half when I was still at my elementary grade levels 5 to 6 in the Philippines. She was a Social Studies and General Science Teacher of grade 3 pupils in my school. On weekends, she conducted some sort of reinforcement tutorial class to me and other 2 Korean students so that we could easily catch up in school since we were all anxious and unconfident. Though this was done only in weekends, I still consider that her class was a big success because of the type of her teaching style, her understanding of learner retention rate and her qualities of being an effective teacher that made me remember her as the best teacher.

Mrs. Grefaldia was an enabler type of teacher. She never stood up and turned herself to the blackboard to give lecture. Rather, she was an intelligent teacher knowing the subject matter, she was familiar with different methodologies and she was even aware on how to make us feel comfortable in class. Most often, she prepared activities where we could lead a certain discussion. When any of us made a mistake, whether major or minor, she did not point her fingers at us but waited for us to notice the error and if no one does, she made the follow-up correction with a smooth voice and gesture.

Because there are various lessons and activities that I could recall, I think she understood the concept of learner retention rate. The teaching techniques she usually exhibited were organizing discussion groups, conducting experiential learning and student teaching other students. One very unforgettable moment was when she suggested us to cook together this certain Filipino dessert. We all went to the supermarket together. She only gave us the list of the ingredients and waited for us to purchase those. Before cooking, I was able to practice pronouncing the word “flour” which was quite difficult. During the actual cooking session, my classmates and I read the instructions all together and cooked with Mrs. Grefaldia’s assistance. After cooking, she asked us if we could recall the ingredients and chronologically arrange the steps. I was able to narrate them correctly because I bought the ingredients and I did the cooking. Although this was not a pure language learning experience, it was a great experiential learning remembrance.

If someone happens to ask me “Was she an effective teacher?” with no doubt, I will right away respond “yes”. She had the qualities of being an effective teacher. She was authentic, emphatic and respectful. I can confidently say that she was authentic because she never seemed to fake a teacher. She was her simple self and she was a real teacher who aims for her student to learn something from her. She was such emphatic teacher because she really cared for me and the rest of the class and I could heart-fully feel it. In fact, I visited her every in awhile until I graduated college. And she respected me, as a student and as unique individual, all the time. So in return, I also respected her.

If I chose to become a teacher or if I am given the golden opportunity to teach, I would like to be a teacher like Mrs.Greafaldia. I wish to become an authentic, approachable, caring and optimistic teacher who prioritizes enthusiastic and creative student-centered learning environment. If I have to add more to whom she used to be, I would probably utilize the advancement of technology and gadgets genuinely. She was at her 50s when she taught me but I am here, still at my 20s, so this could imply that I can try harder to produce attracting visual aids or prepare a colorful presentation to enhance enjoyable lessons to the students. I am actually very excited of being remembered as the “best teacher” to someone else just like how I remember her.