

What makes me a powerful teacher?

“I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” This insight from Dr. Maya Angelou is one of the most profound lessons for me in life as a human being and especially as a teacher. That is why Rita Pierson’s talk deeply resonates with me. In my 8 years of teaching, if there is one thing I have learned: It is that every child has the ability to succeed; we just need to give him/her the adequate amount of time and an abundance of encouragement. I want to be the kind of teacher who will always be remembered as someone who believed in her students.

It isn’t surprising that “nurturing” is the dominant perspective in the IB teachers surveyed. Teachers need to consistently and continuously drive the message that each student can succeed in achieving their goals if they invest enough time and effort. It is also true that teachers themselves need to be good role models and, therefore, must first begin by demonstrating all the attributes that are expected to be seen in an IB Learner.

I shifted from a corporate career to teaching English to adults because I thought that I would be able to help people and there was a need for teachers in this area. I landed in a school classroom by chance, but it was out of choice that I became an educator and a school teacher because, after the first few months in a classroom, I realized, this was my true calling. I believe I am a powerful teacher because:

1. I am a keen learner, who having completed a Bachelor’s Degree and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management; having had a flourishing corporate career for ten years, wanted to start a whole new journey of learning to become a teacher. Therefore, I completed a rigorous 9-month teacher certification followed by a Masters in Early Childhood Education. I am now pursuing the IB certification because of my thirst for knowledge about various curriculums.
2. I am an open-minded thinker, who believes that people are different and there is always a reason behind their actions and reactions. This attitude is extremely helpful especially in a multi-cultural classroom where students and their parents do things in so many ways. Instead of judging them, I go back and do some research on their country and culture to understand the possible guiding factors for their behaviour.
3. I am caring and understanding. I believe in making my classroom a place where students feel safe to try new things, make mistakes and learn from their mistakes. I strive to make my classroom a place where students have the freedom to explore, experience and enjoy while I focus on being an efficient facilitator. I want my students to know that I am always there for them, no matter what.
4. Finally, I believe that my ability to introspect and reflect is my greatest strength. In my 8 years of teaching there has never been a day when I have gone home and not spent time reflecting, thinking of how I could have done things differently and coming up with creative action steps for the next day.

I truly believe:

The opportunity to guide someone is a gift,
And step by step, deed by deed, it is my desire,
Many a spirit, may I lift!