



Some reflective notes from 2002 students

(This next section has a number of responses to the 1938 Teacher Stories)

When I read the stories:

I think of my first year as a teacher. I was told I needed to teach/cover all that was listed in the curriculum guide. I was quietly delighted to find very few class sets of novels/test books on my shelf. No one ever came to check on what I was teaching, and I treasured this space. I was resourceful in creating my own materials for my students and very proud of my students' creations throughout the year. I was teaching the "curriculum" in my own way for I had limited resources!

Jennifer

I think of my first year as a teacher. I had 28 students in grades 3-5 and taught grade six subjects with grade 5, plus girls PE for grades 6 - 10. There were not enough science books. So, I used a topical approach, made questions for each grade, borrowed 40-60 books at a time from the library to supplement texts. Many

students learned the information for all the grade levels. Materials were available for many reading levels. The students learned study skills. They also worked together and shared materials. It was fun and I'm sure it was better teaching than it would have been otherwise!

Ruth

I think about when I taught music to students with severe emotional and behavioral disabilities, in a self-contained program for such children. Their challenges were great, and thus, so were mine. Teaching them, and finding ways for them to participate in the enjoyment of and performance in music required a great stretching of my teaching skills and "artistry". I had to create ways to teach that I had never been taught. I learned more, possibly, than they did. But they overcame far more. . . they overcame fear, failure, and even self-loathing as they actually became performers!

Jean

I remember my teacher playing ball at recess. She was a middle aged nun with lots of spunk. She was a very strict disciplinarian, but had a joyful and connecting way about her. One day, we were playing ball in the school yard. Sister Clemente Marie hit the ball and ran to 2nd base. I was standing on 2nd base and tried to get her out. Instead, I yanked her veil off and it was the first time any of us ever saw a nuns head!

Peg

I think of my 8th grade teacher – I discovered how much influence a teacher could have on you. Mr. Thomas, a short, funny looking English teacher with a sense of humor so dry – helped me to find my ability to write creatively. He would come into class disheveled with books and papers flying everywhere and then pass out a poem that he had written the night before. The poem or story would have each class member as a character and with humor he portrayed us in the most incredible situations. . . . Flying planes over Belgium, puffing chloroform into the limo of our famous classmate who is President of Australia etc. *Eileen*

We found the “community” theme throughout the stories:

Community

Now, single-aged

Then, multi-level.

Now, competitive

Then, interdependent.

Now, rigid compartments

Then, fluid boundaries.

Now, segregated

Then, integrated.

Now, self-centered

Then, interdependent.

Now, “I”

Then, “We”.

Now, isolated

Then, family.

Jennifer, Ruth and Jean