

## **More Than an Ordinary Teacher**

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It's not every day you run across someone so inspirational they change not only your life, but the way you think. To me, an inspirational person is someone who demonstrates something more clearly or just expresses love and kindness because they desire to see everyone smile. One of the first people who come to mind when I consider these things is Mrs. Noe. Mrs. Noe was my fourth and fifth grade teacher at John Hay Elementary. She cared for all her students deeply and accepted them as they were. Mrs. Noe was always striving to be the most effective teacher she could possibly be. She also enjoyed being involved in school activities. Mrs. Noe was cheerleading coach in fourth grade, took on Scholar's Bowl and hauled us to Junior Beta Convention in fifth, and threw a school-wide baby shower for our principal. I could not understand why anyone wouldn't admire and be proud of Mrs. Noe.

When the end of fourth grade was slowly creeping up on us, I remember how sad I felt knowing Mrs. Noe would have twenty new students. Sometime near the end of the year, I remember the day she sat in her tall chair and told us she had some exciting news. We sat with anticipation. "Due to Mr. Amos's death, we've been assigned a new principal. The new principal has changed some things around and all of us will be moving to the second grade hallway, and I'll be your teacher for another year." Everyone jumped for joy! I was incredibly grateful to have a superb teacher for a second year.

The main reason I see Mrs. Noe as an inspirational person is because she's not just a teacher to her students. She's a friend, counselor, and to some, a mother figure. She made sure we were told when we weren't doing what we were supposed to. After two years with such a kind lady, most of us learned to be polite to her and respect our fellow classmates. It wasn't that we were frightened by her, but we knew and understood her high expectations for us. When I broke my toe in fifth grade, she let me come in through the back door so I didn't have to walk as far. Simple acts of kindness are just part of why I think of Mrs. Noe whenever I meet someone new or make a poor decision.

Also, a vital part of her job was being the most magnificent teacher I ever had. Unlike most teachers I have had, she made sure every single person comprehended the lesson. I have also come to a conclusion that Mrs. Noe's spelling tests support me more than I realized. A splendid quality of her teaching was she provided appropriate feedback. I always felt she saw children a tad bit differently. While other teachers moaned about their hyper children, Mrs. Noe was delighted to see every student parade into her classroom; that's how she inspired me to be a teacher. If I fulfill my dream to become a teacher, I will no doubt have flashbacks to fifth grade and decide what Mrs. Noe would do.

In fifth grade, Mrs. Noe helped plan a baby shower for our principal. But the surprise was that the whole school was invited! Mrs. Dyke, the principal, sat in the middle of the gym with her daughter in her lap and started to cry. I was so proud that my very own teacher had planned something so gracious. Mrs. Noe became cheerleading coach in fourth grade. I don't know if she desired to deal with thirteen peppy girls, but she handled it well. The courageous teacher also took on Scholar's Bowl. She assisted us after school and supported our team. Yet, the most daring thing she ever attempted was when she hauled all her Beta Club students to convention in Nashville. I don't recall winning anything, but I was prepared for middle school Beta Club. From her, I learned that participating in many activities gives one experience, good or bad.

I feel exceedingly grateful to have had a teacher that made such an impact on my life. She'll never know how much I admire and look up to her. Through all the laughter, tears and memories, I would not change my last two years in elementary school with such a nurturing teacher. Of my top ten inspirational people, Mrs. Noe is number one.