

Reminiscent Teacher Essay
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Memorable Moments

When a 5th grade teacher at South Canyon Elementary School in Rapid City, eons ago, I had the 50 states to teach in Social Studies. By the time we got to Hawaii, it was near the end of the year, soooo we planned a trip to Hawaii. We divided into groups: one would do the airline tickets, one the hotels, one the baggage, and one the sights to see. Each group had to actually call for their information; airline prices, hotel prices, and sights to see. The baggage group was the most hilarious because they had to have two suitcases packed with the clothes needed. That was O.K. until you got to the undies . . . that caused lots of giggling . . . but we finally got it done. Each group had to report on what they had found, supplemented by the textbook, and we took off. It was a fun experience and I think the kids enjoyed it.

Also as a 5th grade teacher, each year I would announce that for one week a student could do a special project of his/her own and would be excused from all classes (except if we were introducing a new item). We drew straws to see who “the person” would be. The person whose week it was had the big table at the back of the classroom, and he/she spent the whole day there working on “his/her project.” I would help if asked. They needed to tell me ahead of time what they would be doing so that I could get books from the library and paper and supplies to help them. This worked out very well, and one Friday “the person” got to do his/her thing in front of the classroom. Everyone in the class looked forward to this “week out of class on my own.” We did have some very good projects that were presented on the Friday sharing. Of course, the special person had to participate in P.E. and Music, but other than that, they were themselves doing their own thing.

As a principal, I missed contact with kids, so each year I would go into each teacher’s classroom twice a year for one-half day and be with the kids. I’d tell the teacher that I would follow her lesson plans but not to have me introduce anything new. The teachers said, “But what if someone see me on the street?” I said, “Tell them to call me and I’ll let them know.” The kids and I had a blast. I had to adjust from K to 6th (at that time, 6th was still elementary). I can remember only one problem that happened in the Kindergarten. We were sitting on the floor and I was reading to them (I had forgotten to give them a potty break); and I noticed the girl next to me must have had to go because a puddle appeared. I thought, “Oh well, it was all O.K.” until the puddle reached the boy’s hand next to her. ALL HELL broke loose. We got it solved, though. WHEW!