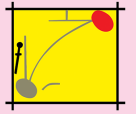




WORLD OF CAREERS (WoC) is an initiative of **Prime Academy**; the 25-year old CA training institution. WoC provides career conversations with school and college students across academic streams, and with fresh professionals. It's run on the i-Learn mode. WoC Buzz is a fortnightly update which presents key global developments in careers.



WHAT MAKES A GOOD TEACHER GREAT?

By **CA SNEHA SUBRAMANIAM**

A **VERY** intriguing question isn't it. What do we look for in a great teacher? Azul Terronez went looking for answers and collected over 26,000 responses to this question from 8 different schools ranging from the poor ones at LA right up to the elite private schools abroad. He humbly admits that after 24 years of teaching the question still perplexes him. Let us look at the few lessons he learned by just listening to students.

He realized that schools fail to ask this question to students partially out of fear and under the impression that they won't take it seriously. He shares a few answers which he received.

"A great teacher eats apples". We tend to dismiss this as a silly notion. But it was a repetitive response that he kept getting. It made him think, "What are they trying to tell me?" He started eating apples, in the morning, at lunch, in the class, in the hall. And what happened was kids started giving him apples. It was until he understood that kids wanted to see him as somebody who was willing to receive a gift from them. The apple was a symbol for their relationship, one of trust and goodness.

"A great teacher is chill." Kids have their own language. What they really mean is "don't take it too serious, be calm." Don't get overwhelmed"

"A great teacher thinks like a kid but acts like an adult." They expect us to see the world inside of them. After all the years of collecting these responses he noticed a pattern emerging. "A great teacher loves to learn." The significance behind this is students often wish the teachers learn along with them. What if they did? Suppose if they saw the teacher struggle through solving a problem and get it done eventually. Kids want to get inspired by the idea that learning is important.

"A great teacher isn't a teacher." What does that mean? A great teacher isn't in the classroom. Say something like learning to ride a bike, which we remember for life.

If this was taught in class, we would end up learning parts of the bike and write a research paper in history of bike riding and pass an exam to actually ride it. Ridiculous, but this is exactly what we are doing to the children. No wonder they are disruptive, bored and disengaged.

"A great teacher understands that students have a life outside of school." All along he thought how hard life can be for kids outside of school other than doing homework. Yvette, his feisty student with an infamous reputation changed his perception. She reasoned for coming back with incomplete homework, that the only place where she could do it was the restroom which cancelled out all the noise and that week there was a power cut and it was dark in there and her candle had burned out and she couldn't do it. If he had listened closely he would have known that she was trying. Great teachers notice when a kid struggles and rescue them. Good teachers only hear them and don't listen.

Most perplexing answer he ever received was, "A great teacher sings." Every year for ten years he had a student write this. "I can't sing." So one day in class after listing the agenda, he went on to sing in operatic style with. He was waiting to get pointed at after finishing only to be surprised by a standing ovation and cheers from the entire classroom.

Great teachers make themselves humble before their students. They take risks. They set aside their fear to try. What we need are not experts at content but deep under stander's of students. Listening is one of the important skills for life but we don't teach it.

In our classrooms are the future Maya Angelous, Mother Teresa's, the Elon Musks of the world. And if took the time to ask them what makes a good teacher great and actually listened, we would transform schools and education.

To view this story click the link below

<https://youtu.be/vrU6YJle6Q4>

