

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 9-3: The Difference a Teacher Can Make

Steve is a twelve-year-old boy with alcoholic (酗酒的) parents. Steve was failing (不及格) in school. He had been failing since first grade, as he was passed on from grade to grade. Miss White was Steve's new teacher, Steve never did his homework, and he was always in trouble with Miss White. His heart was not in school, but in the woods, where he often escaped (逃避) alone, trying to shut out the sights and smells of his alcoholic home. One day, Miss White's impatient voice broke into his daydreams (白日梦).

"Steve!!" Startled (吓了一跳), he turned to look at her. "Pay attention (注意)!"

"You all did pretty well," she told the class, "except for one boy, and it breaks my heart (伤我心) to tell you this, the smartest (最聪明的) boy in the seventh grade is failing my class!" After that, Steve still wouldn't do his homework (回家作业).

"Just try it! ONE WEEK!" Steve was unmoved (没有感动).

"Give yourself a chance! Don't give up (放弃) on your life!" Nothing happened.

Wow! Suddenly, Steve got it!! Someone cared about (关心) him!!

Steve went home from school, thoughtful, that afternoon. Walking into the house, he took one look around. Both parents were passed out (失去知觉), in various stages of undress (衣服不整), and the stench (臭气) was overpowering (极强烈)! He, quickly, gathered up his camping gear (露营工具), a jar of peanut butter (花生酱), a loaf of bread, a bottle of water, and this time...his schoolbooks. He headed for the woods (树林).

The following Monday he arrived at school on time. Miss White walked in and immediately gave a quiz (小考) on the weekend homework. Steve hurried through (很快完成) the test, and was the first to hand in his paper (考卷). With a look of surprise (惊奇), Miss White took his paper. She began to look it over.

Miss White's face was in total shock (震惊)! The smartest boy in the seventh

grade had just passed his first test!

From that moment nothing was the same for Steve. Life at home remained the same. But he discovered that he could learn, and that he was good at it! But he discovered that he could understand and retain (存留) knowledge, and that he could translate the things he learned into his own life. Steve began to excel (突出, 优秀)! After high-school Steve enlisted in (志愿加入) the Navy, and he had a successful military career. During that time, he met the love of his wife, he raised a family, and he graduated from college Magna Cum Laude (优等成绩). During his naval career, he inspired many young people, who without him might not have believed in themselves. Steve began a second career after the Navy and he continues to inspire other young people, as an adjunct (兼任) professor in a nearby college. Miss White left a great legacy (伟绩). She saved one boy who has changed many lives. I know, because I am the love of his life.

2. Discussion:

1. Who provided the significant influences in Steve's life, for bad? Or for good?
2. How do we know Steve's life changed?
3. What did Miss White do to help Steve to change?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 358. She mended the broken doll. | 她修补了破的洋娃娃。 |
| 359. So I just take what I want | 那么我只拿我所需要的 |
| 360. Spring is a pretty season, | 春天是一个好季节。 |
| 361. The numbers seem right. | 数目看起来是对的。 |
| 362. The stars are too far away. | 星星太遥远了。 |
| 363. The whole world knows that. | 全世界都知道。 |
| 364. Tomorrow will be a holiday. | 明天放假。 |