

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 9-6: The Personal Qualities of a Teacher

Here I want to try to give you an answer to the question: What personal qualities (资格) are desirable (值得追求的) in a teacher?

First, the teacher's personality (品格) should be pleasantly lived and attractive. This does not rule out people who are physically plain (平淡), or even ugly (不美), because many such have great personal charm (魅力).

Secondly, it is not merely desirable but essential (必须) for a teacher to have a genuine capacity for sympathy (同情) – in the literal meaning of that word; a capacity to tune in (了解) to the minds and feelings of other people, especially, to the minds and feelings of children. Closely related with this is the capacity to be tolerant (忍耐).

Thirdly, I hold it essential for a teacher to be both intellectually (智慧) and morally honest (道德诚实). It means that he/she will be aware of his/her intellectual strengths, and limitations, and will have thought about and decided upon the moral (道德) principles by which his/her life shall be guided. There is no contradiction to say that a teacher should be a bit of an actor (演员). That is part of the technique of teaching, which demands that a teacher should be able to put on an act—to enliven (使有生气) a lesson, correct a fault, or award a praise (给予称赞).

A teacher must remain mentally alert (心理上的警醒). A teacher must be quick to adapt himself to any situation, and able to improvise (即兴创作), if necessary at less than a moment's notice. On the other hand, a teacher must be capable of infinite patience (非常忍耐). This, I may say, is largely a matter of self-discipline (自律) and self-training; we are not born like that. He must be pretty resilient (弹性); teaching makes great demands on nervous energy.

Finally, I think a teacher should have the kind of mind, which always wants to go on learning. Teaching is a job at which one will never be perfect; there is always

something more to learn about it. There are three principal objects of study: the subject (主题), or subjects, which the teacher is teaching; the methods (方法) by which they can best be taught to particular pupils (小学生) in the classes he is teaching; and—by far the most important—the children (小孩), young people, or adults to whom they are to be taught. The two cardinal (基要) principles of British education today are that education is education of the whole person (全人教育), and that it is best acquired through full and active co-operation between two persons, the teacher and the learner.

2. Discussion:

1. List the desirable qualities of a teacher as mentioned in this article.
2. Why is teaching a job at which a person will never be perfect?
3. How practical are the qualities taught in this article for modern Chinese schools?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

379. May I speak to Lora, please? 我能和劳拉说话吗?

380. Mr. Wang is fixing his bike. 王先生在修他的自行车。

381. My brother is seeking a job. 我弟弟正在找工作。

382. Nancy will retire next year. 南希明年就退休了。

383. Neither you nor he is wrong. 你没错, 他也没错。

384. Opportunity knocks but once. 机不可失, 时不再来。

385. She dressed herself hastily. 她匆忙穿上衣服。