

## Why I Wanted to Become a Teacher

The best way to describe why I wanted to become a teacher is portrayed in the 2005 movie entitled, "School of Life." The movie is about a young teacher, Mr. D'Angelo, who has recently been hired to take the position of his favorite teacher and role model, Stormin' Norman Warner, who has just passed away. Stormin' Norman Warner was the teacher that every student loved and wanted to be assigned to his classroom each and every year. The main attribute that Stormin' Norman and Mr. D'Angelo had in common is that their lessons extended beyond their classrooms. They thought it was important for the atmosphere of their classrooms to be warm allowing their students to feel very comfortable and not be afraid to express themselves. They wanted to spark their students' imagination. They brought their students on all sorts of fieldtrips. The fieldtrips may range from leaving the school's sight to staying within the classroom. They thought that the greatest lessons are those that are taught outside the classroom. Mr. D'Angelo and Stormin' Norman did not want to be seen as an individual that controls the students' grades but rather someone their students could come to for advice or whatever the matter might be.

As long as I can remember I have always wanted to become a teacher. I know one of the main reasons why I pursued a teaching career is that I had been introduced to many great role models starting at a very young age. They were always telling me to follow my dreams and to never give up. My dream was to become a teacher and I have achieved that dream. Just like Mr. D'Angelo. Mr. D'Angelo was introduced to Stormin' Norman Warner and I had the privilege to have my first grade teacher, Miss Harris, influence my life.

You could tell that Miss Harris loved her job. She had the ability to control her classroom without having to raise her voice, she always had a positive attitude, and she had a sense of warmth to her that she shared with each and every one of her students. She was always willing to listen and give advice no matter the case might be. She had a never-ending source of creative ideas and the way she approached a concept was based on her students' strengths and weaknesses which she could recognize.

Like many new first graders, first grade was a scary place and with that brought uncertainty about what was in store for them. It was going to be a whole new beginning of a whole new chapter in my life. I would no longer be going to school two or three times a week for just a half of a day but rather all day, every day. I would also be going to a new school and would have to make new friends. On the first day of school, I walked grasping my mother's hand tightly unaware of what was going to happen when I would get to the classroom door. Would I want to leave as fast as I came or would I be willing to go in and give this new chapter in my life a try? I will always remember my first contact with Miss Harris. Miss Harris was standing outside her classroom door with the biggest smile on her face. When I got to the classroom door, she lowered to my level and greeted me with the biggest smile on her face. She shook my hand and told me that it was an honor to have me in her classroom. She then took my hand and walked me into the classroom and showed me where my desk was. She told me that this was my very own desk where I can keep all my school supplies. Before leaving she introduced me to many of my fellow classmates that sat around me. Miss Harris had this warmth to her that seemed to calm and comfort me along with her other students. It assured us that it was going to be ok.

Miss Harris could recognize her students' strengths and weaknesses. Recognizing these helped her meet her students' needs. She could recognize if a student was having a problem grasping a concept and was able to quickly take another approach to help that student. Miss Harris would do everything in her power to help her students. When Miss Harris noticed a student was really struggling and needed more help than she could offer in her classroom she would inform the parents and administration. This is what happened in my case; Miss Harris and my parents realized that I was not up to speed with the other first graders. My parents decided to test me for a learning disability. I was diagnosed with a learning disability having to do with reading comprehension and spelling. Miss Harris made herself available to help me before and after school to make sure I understood what was happening in class and keep me up to speed with the other students in the classroom.

Miss Harris had an incredible imagination. She seemed to always come up with creative ways to teach her lessons. She always found a way to give her students the ability to hear, see, and touch the material.

I will never forget Miss Harris and the contributions that she has given me. She was truly an inspiration. If I had walked into that classroom on that first day and Miss Harris had not acknowledge me the way she did, I do not know if I would be standing here as a teacher. I truly believe that Miss Harris is the main reason why I am a teacher today. Just like Stormin' Norman Warner was the main reason that Mr. D'Angelo wanted to become a teacher. I hope to have a positive influence on my students just as Miss Harris had on me.