

YOU'RE STILL YOU

by:

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I was listening to the radio and heard Josh Groban's song. I love the line that goes like this "After all, you are still you."

Isn't it wonderful when others accept and value who you are? In this world filled with chaos and disunion, isn't acceptance the key to unity and peace?

These days, I think, children are at war toward themselves, with others, with everything! It is a significant task to organize their thoughts. Also, if we think learners only struggle in academics, think again. Most challenges children are facing commonly sprung from home. They cannot focus in school due to the challenges they face due to parents' biases, quarrels, separation, sibling rivalries, etc.

Consequently, learners tend to rebel which oftentimes emerges in school. They either become a bully or the other way around. They also tend to answer back or respond harshly even to people in authority. Another thing I observed about them is their thirst to be accepted. They yearn for attention to the extent that they conform although it made them uneasy.

With that, I remembered the story of Tom's Tail. The story is around a pig who wishes to straighten his tail or have one like the other farm animals. Up to the end of the story, although the experience of having a straight tail already showed the piglet the consequences, it still wanted to be like others.

Indeed, children are easy to persuade. They easily get tempted and influenced. They prefer to conform rather than be different which leads them not to brace and love

who they are. They thought being a part of something would make them complete. Hence, as a teacher, if we observe our learners conforming just for the fear of being left out or outstanding, use cooperative learning and a myriad of interactive activities that will help them prowess and discover their own and full potential. Perhaps, doing so could establish a sense of belongingness, pride, and, intrinsic motivation.

Therefore, teaching is not all about the subject matter to be taught. It also requires one's compassion and care toward their learners. We have to know who they are and what they need so that we can connect to them and also help them see themselves in a positive light.

References:

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