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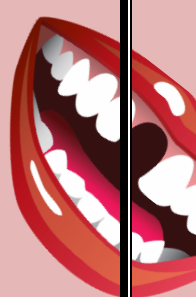
Title: Missing Tooth in Between Smiles

I: Most Significant Experiences




Three weeks had passed when I became an intern at BEDS. I still feel the same excitement and nervousness, eager to continue my journey as a future educator. Yet, there is more to it than that because I'll never forget the student's reaction when they see me.

Every morning, as I walked through the school gates, students always greeted me with a wave of friendly faces and warm smiles. The students were incredibly welcoming. Some waved enthusiastically, while others offered shy nods or shy smiles. I was surprised by their openness and friendliness. It contrasted the image I had in my mind of students being aloof or disinterested.




As a new kid in the school, I've been amused by the subtle ways people greet me. From nods to gestures, it's clear I'm still a stranger. But one scout, during the First Friday mass, stole the show. With a fist to his chest and a slight bow, he offered a respect that felt almost like a scene from an anime. I was surprised, but that small act made my day.



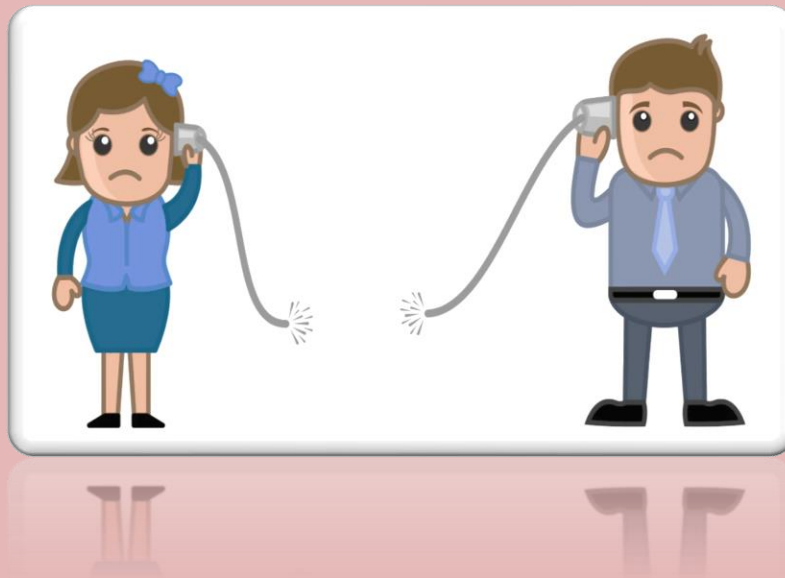
This experience has taught me a lot about the importance of building positive relationships with students. Their warm greetings and welcoming attitudes have made me feel valued and appreciated. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of their learning journey, and I look forward to creating lasting memories with them.

The students' greetings and smiles will never fail to put a smile on my face.



II: Obstacles Encountered

While I've generally had a positive experience as an intern, I'm starting to realize that connecting with every student isn't always as easy as I thought it would be. There are a few students in particular who seem distant or uninterested.



I've tried to be approachable and friendly, but it feels like hitting a wall. I've attempted to ask open-ended questions and assist them in activities, but nothing seems to work. I'm starting to wonder if there's something I'm doing wrong or if there's a personal barrier, I'm not aware of. Some students avoid my gaze and others make it seem so obvious that they don't even want to talk to me.

I get it that my poker face has often been described as intimidating or even menacing. This could explain why I sometimes struggle to build rapport with others. It seems like they think I'm plotting for their demise or humanity's destruction. Kidding aside, it's disheartening to feel I'm not making a difference in these students' lives. I want them to feel valued and supported, but I'm unsure how to reach them. I need to find a way to connect with them on a deeper level and make them feel like they belong in the classroom.

III: Obstacles Hurdled

I realized that my poker face might be contributing to the problem, so I made a conscious effort to smile more and show genuine interest in their lives. I started by asking them about their hobbies, interests, and favorite things. I was surprised by how much they opened up once they realized I was genuinely curious. I also made a point to praise them for their work. For example, “kaya niyo yan”, “ang effort, ang ganda”, “you’re so creative”, and the likes.


Apart from that struggle, I also had a particular interaction with students who were being disruptive in class and our CT went out at that time. However, instead of getting angry or just letting them be, I took a deep breath and tried to understand why they were acting out. I approached them calmly and asked if there was something bothering them. To my surprise, they told me that they feel overwhelmed by the activity at hand. They asked me about the activity, and I assisted them with what I knew. The students seemed relieved to have someone to talk to, and I was also glad that I approached them. It was a small victory but reminded me that even the most challenging students can be reached with patience and understanding.



While it's exhausting to be patient and persistent, I hope that my efforts will not only help me connect with students but also leave a lasting impression and be memorable to them.




IV: Impact on Your Chosen Field



I was reflecting on the importance of patience, perseverance, and another crucial quality in teaching: a smile. As a future educator, I understand that these qualities will be important for my success. First, patience is crucial because it allows me to approach challenges with calmness and understanding. Teaching can be demanding and frustrating at times, but patience would help me remain focused on my goals and find creative solutions. It would also allow me to build trust and rapport with students, which is essential for effective teaching and learning.

On the other hand, consistent perseverance is equally crucial. Teaching is not always easy, and setbacks and challenges will come along the way. However, by persevering through these difficulties, I can demonstrate to students the importance of resilience and hard work. It would also help me to stay motivated and committed to my goals when things get tough.



Patience and consistent perseverance are one of the keys to becoming a successful and impactful teacher. By cultivating these qualities, I can make a creative and supportive learning environment for students and help them reach their full potential. However, sometimes, the smallest actions, like a smile, can have the biggest impact.

