

Write about three qualities you find most important in a mentor figure

[Class featured]

I stood in the chilly hall. A hall filled to the brim with others wearing the same apparel as I did. A hall so capacious a person seemed like a puny ant in comparison. Filled with gales of laughter and chatter, the hall was so lively that one would not believe me if I told them that it was the very hall that was quiet like an owl soaring through the sky a month ago: The tension of the atmosphere pulled at my feet; the glacial temperatures of the air conditioning froze my hand; the whisper of the pen strokes on the paper could reverberate off the walls of the hall. Today was the day I received my 'O' level results, as well as the day tears of joy streamed down my face. The beauty of a single digit on the certificate was all I needed to jump up and down in euphoria.

However, there was but one person that came to mind when I wanted to show my gratitude. That person, was my English teacher, Ms Tan. She made me realise that the teacher or mentor I have to guide and enlighten me is paramount to my success. After hours of endless pondering and careful analysis, I have realised that there are three qualities that are most crucial in a mentor that Ms Tan possesses. It was thanks to these three qualities that I could unveil my true potential. It was thanks to these three qualities that I described the delight of learning. It was thanks to these three qualities that I could stand tall on that day I received my 'O' level certificate, feeling proud of myself. These three qualities are patience, diligence, and amiability.

Firstly, Ms Tan showed me the true meaning of patience. When I first started my upper secondary life in school, I was anything but an exemplary student. If anything, you might have considered me as one of the least attentive students in my class. I would daydream all day—indulge myself in the fantastical worlds of my imagination and ride the omnipotent dragons in the azure blue sky. Otherwise, I would find myself talking to my friends beside me—discussing the identity of the culprit after the latest episode of our favourite show on the enigmatic world of mystery and thriller. The situation was so bad to the point that many of my teachers simply gave up on me and ignored my rudeness. However, it was Ms Tan who was relentless in her efforts to change me. She would always fish me out of the deep depths of my thoughts and snap me back to reality. She would always chase me for assignments and ensure that I was on the right path. It was because of her that the once monotonous classes erupted with lush and vibrant colours in my eyes.

Furthermore, Ms Tan possessed more diligence than anyone I met. While other subject classes were using banal learning, Ms Tan spent a colossal number of precious hours, that she could have used for more leisurely activities, on perfecting each and every lesson. Utilising new tools in the classroom, she would always discover a way to make every lesson seem different from the last. She made each day distinct and ever so enthralling. She ensured each word that sounded from her mouth was relevant and effective. She designed each lesson like an artist on a sculpture, paying close attention to every minute detail. A lesson so engaging that time whizzed by like a bullet from a rifle. It was because of her

dutiful efforts in both lesson planning and marking, that I respected her and swore to myself that I would never miss an assignment from her ever again.

Lastly, when our relationship improved, she was like a friend to me. Her amiable personality and characteristics made conversing with her immensely easy. When talking to other teachers, due to my newfound respect for them, I would always stutter in a cowardly manner. As a result, asking questions and clarifying doubts was like hiking the monolithic Mount Everest. A breath so ragged and legs seemingly filled with molten lead, I could never find the right words in a conversation with them. However, with Ms Tan, such a situation never occurred. Each and every conversation with her was natural, comforting, and rejuvenating. It was like reposing on a beach chair with my best friend, the undulating waves of the ocean, scintillating as the light reflected off the cerulean water. It was because of her friendliness that I was able to empty all my doubts and uncertainties on various topics and vocabulary.

In conclusion, these are the three qualities which I find imperative in a mentor figure. While each mentor is different from another, without these three characteristics, I would never have loved the quest of learning as I do now.

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Writer Notes:

This was my prelim paper 1 essay. Similar to my previous timed practice (see Most Impactful Person), the content is lacking as there are no concrete examples, especially for the amiability quality. This transcript is with my teacher's feedback, as well as my correcting of a few careless grammatical mistakes. I transcribed this quite fast without taking a second read, so let me know if there are any errors.

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