

Pre-school teacher's story - dedication, sacrifices, and love

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7 July An Interview with a Pre-School Teacher: Dedication, Sacrifices, and Love Pre-school teachers are believed to be the human version of a well with copious amounts of patience and love. In short, they are like parents. This paper is a summary of an interview with Teacher Janice Leighton, a pre-school teacher. She has been teaching kindergarten students for the past three years, and she is my mother's best friend. For her, teaching is a calling that when answered, provides "lifelong learning and loving opportunities." This paper shows that being a teacher requires dedication, sacrifices, and love.

Teaching is not always the first job for all teachers, but it is the last for Janice. One of her first jobs is to work at a call center of a cellular phone company. She made \$9 per hour then. She worked graveyard shifts, and she complained that the schedule and target goals were very stressful and exhausting. After only three months, she decided to shift to becoming a pre-school teacher. She finished BS Mathematics and she enjoyed it. But she realized that she wanted to also become a pre-school teacher. For the next three years, she took Early Childhood and Education programs. After she finished the programs, she applied for a public school in our community and she got hired. Right now, she is still a pre-school teacher and loving her job. She makes around \$30,000 every year. She is now pursuing her MA in Early Childhood Education.

Teachers are not superheroes; they are human beings with likes and dislikes in this world. She said that as a girl, their family had two dogs, three cats, two rabbits, and two hamsters. The most special pet for her was Britney, their white cat with blue eyes and bunny tail. She is special, because she

seems to be aware of her limits as a pet. Janice said: “ Brit is the sweetest cat ever, and she never pounces on food, unless it is given to her. And you can just feel that she loves you so much, when she brushes on your legs.” Like other people, Janice tries to avoid some things, but she ends up doing them. She said that some of the things that she is doing that she said she would never do are eating another slice of chocolate cake, and spending more time playing CastleVille than originally planned. She admitted being “ partially addicted” to both. Janice stresses that she hates long lines, traffic, and young people who disrespect their parents. Some of the best things that Janice loves about her life right now are that she can do anything she wants, because she is still single and she does not have to be encumbered with the responsibilities of being a wife and a mother. She plans to have a family someday, but maybe in her mid-thirties.

Being a teacher requires sacrifices, love, and dedication. Janice’s long-term goals are about her career as a teacher and the benefits she can get from it. She is working hard to save money and to buy her own house. She also plans to finish her Master’s degree in two years. For her, these goals require sacrifices, like delaying marriage and cutting back on numerous expenses. When asked about her strongest and weakest attributes, she said: “ My strongest attribute is my dedication to public service and teaching. My weakest is that I have a hard time saying no to people.” People can easily know that she is a teacher by heart, because when asked the question: If could go back in history and meet anyone, who would it be and why? She answered that she wants to meet Jesus Christ. She stressed: “ I want to listen to his stories and to learn from his goodness. I want to learn from the most

awesome teacher of all time.”

Janice is like any other human being, with goals, dreams, strengths, and weaknesses. Her life is centered on being a good person and being the most “engaging and loving teacher” for her classes. For her, she is a teacher in and out. For her students, she is their second Mom.

Work Cited

Leighton, Janice. Personal interview. 4 July 2012.