



Thank You, Teachers!

By Sofi Frankowski
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In first grade, Dr. Kieltyka told us she had eyes in the back of her head. I believed her. She opened up the classroom almost an hour early each day and pointed me to books she thought I would like and I ate them up. Better than doughnuts for breakfast.

In sixth grade, Ms. Saad taught social studies. It was the first presidential election I remember being aware of and I was in the minority opinion about who should win. She made it safe for each of us to make our arguments respectfully.

Ms. Dorgan was a force. She was my introduction to high school English and she ran a tight ship. Before the bell even rang, she was quizzing us on vocabulary ("You'll thank me when you take the SATs!"). We all stood at our desks and assumed a John Travolta disco stance, repeating after her (pointing up) "zenith, zenith, zenith" (pointing down) "nadir, nadir, nadir." Nothing was too goofy or too embarrassing to help us learn to appreciate language and literature at a high level. And she expected every single one of us to learn at a high level.

For every teacher, in the classroom or retired, thank you. For each time you listen deeply, have a moment of clarity, ask an important question that helps you better understand a child ... for every time you expand horizons and for the time you provide a safe space ... for being goofy, for laughing with kids, for being your best self some of the time and for trying again the other times, thank you.

Thank you to the teachers who taught me, those who taught beside me, those who teach my children, those I am fortunate to work with, those who serve every child in this country.

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