
WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

School-teachers do not get rich. School-teaching is hard work. However, there are hundreds of teachers who are happy in their jobs. Evidently there are values and satisfactions in teaching. On these pages teachers tell what some of these satisfactions are.

WE WILL ENJOY TEACHING

By *Beginning Teachers*,
JANE McDERMOTT AND EILEEN FERGUSON

Jane McDermott and Eileen Ferguson began their professional careers in September. This article was prepared by them while they were training at Central Michigan College of Education, Mount Pleasant, to become first-grade teachers. They have an enthusiasm and respect for their chosen profession which we believe seasoned teachers will find both refreshing and inspiring.

A SCORNFUL EXPRESSION greeted our comment, "We're going to be school-teachers."

"Teachers!" snorted a friend. "Why, you'll soon be bossy old maids and sour pusses. How can you stand the same routine every day? You'll be in a rut in no time at all. Teachers always form a chummy group by themselves and become terribly clannish."

Immediately our "fighting Irish" was aroused. We were determined to prove to her how wrong she was and to show her why we were going to enjoy teaching.

We would be in a rut, she said. But we believe our friend doesn't really know what school-teaching is. For it is much more than drill in the three R's. The child may learn that c-a-t spells cat, but he, also, will learn that the cat drinks milk and is someone's pet.

Our place as a teacher is not that of a major-domo giving orders for the day but, rather, one of a guide. As first-grade teachers—which we are planning to be—we will help the children to build behavior patterns which will serve them a lifetime. We are aware of the tremendous responsibility of such an assignment. At the same time, we feel that no work could be more dynamic, more absorbing, than helping to mold individuals into well-rounded persons. No, we don't think teaching will put us in a rut.

We see a teacher as an explorer, plumbing the depths of the minds of children. We believe the mysteries and workings found there would make any explorer green with envy. Each child is different, and each has a mind of his own. Most teachers have at least twenty-five or thirty youngsters under their

wing, and among them the alert teacher is certain to find dormant talent, perhaps even genius. Whatever she finds, she must search continually for experiences to make every child happy. We believe that the teacher who accepts the stimulating challenge of working with children could never grow staid and placid. Teaching holds excitement a-plenty, if one but recognizes it.

"Sour pusses"? Hardly. In the first place, we are convinced that one requirement for every teacher ought to be a sense of humor. For that, alone, could see her through a seemingly major crisis that actually ought to be laughed into a minor one. In the second place, we wonder how a teacher could long remain at her job and fail to find humor in the amusing incidents that color her daily life as a "school-marm." At any rate, please don't count us among the "sour pusses."

Our friend insists that teachers are a clannish lot. It is hard for us to see how a teacher, who works with children from all sorts of homes and, therefore, will get acquainted with adults in every walk of life, can become narrow in her friendships. We believe that the teacher, holding the respect of fellow-townpeople, is welcomed into all community activities.

Not the least of the reasons why we know we will enjoy teaching is that we love children. We love their games, their songs, and stories and take a pleasure in hearing of their experiences. In fact, we feel that a love (yes, we mean *love*) of children and their "doin's" should be a prerequisite to teaching.

So, to those who would deride, we say, "We're teachers!"

And, as we say it, our shirt buttons pop with pride.

I ENJOY TEACHING

By an Experienced Teacher,
MARY V. THOMPSON

Helping youngsters interpret living and the world is real, significant, and exciting. Mary V. Thompson pauses in her busy life as a teacher in the public schools of Philadelphia to discover why she likes her profession. We believe that her faith in the value of a teacher's work reflects the devotion of teachers everywhere to their jobs and that such devotion is this country's best guarantee that the present chaotic state of the world will not last forever.

YES! I ENJOY TEACHING. Perhaps this sounds a little strange in a world at war where there is so much emphasis upon guns and ammunition. Until a short time ago I had never thought of

what I was doing in the light of whether or not I liked doing it. But the more carefully I examine the thought, the more convinced I am of its truth.

Unconsciously, I have always liked

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