BOOK OF HEARTS

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Teachers have to read books.

I think that line is not only a declarative sentence but also an imperative. As we all know, we are expected to be beyond our students’ scope. We must be more knowledgeable and prepared. As they say, if they are on page twenty of the book, better make sure to be on page sixty or more.

Yes, that is not a question anymore. It is very evident that it is a necessity for us to read, for us we do so, we learn new things. Through that, we also become wiser and deserving of our students’ attention. We must not expect students to listen if we have nothing to say. We should not think that our learners will spend time studying what we are teaching if they are not learning something new. Therefore, it is definitely a must to read not only because we have to but because we really better do so if we don’t want to lose our credibility as a teacher.

Nonetheless, these days, I think our students need more than what books can give. What they are yearning and longing for is time and people who can feel them. They need that warmth feeling that books cannot provide. They actually need us, not as a teacher, but as a family.

Yes, we may be good in reading and comprehending letters and words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and so on. We may be an expert already in imparting the information and knowledge gained from books. We can even finish a book in a day if we really want to. But that is not the end core here.
Our students are also books we have to read. They are like those difficult literary masterpieces to be analyzed and critically thought of. They are actually hard to understand. Why? It is because we lack background. Before we came into their lives, the first volumes and chapters of their books’ pages have been made already. With that, I realized that it is essential to take time to read the minds of our students. Let us try to find a way to get to know them more.

Similar to reading a book, let’s try to study and learn who they are, what they have gone through, and what they have in mind. There may be times that they will prefer not to open up, but we must remain still. Make them feel our presence. Keep on holding unto them.

When we are reading a book, when things get difficult, we may open our dictionary (heart) to unlock those difficult words instead of leaving them behind without really knowing why they’re that troublesome and hard to understand.

Hence, I totally agree to this line from The Little Prince: “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”

References: