STORYTELLING AS A PEDAGOGICAL TOOL AND POWERFUL FORM OF COMMUNICATION

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Nowadays, teaching requires a more creative way of presenting lessons to student-learners in able to achieve more efficient learning. It is a challenge for teachers to think of pedagogical tools to be used for the students to have better retention of information. In fact, children can learn better if they can relate to the topic for a particular subject or if they enjoy the way how the teacher delivers the lessons. Facts can easily be recalled if there would be an established connection between the lesson and the learners because the more they are involved, the more they absorb information which can lead to better understanding of the lessons. There would be times that the traditional way of teaching should be set aside in able to welcome new interventions in the teaching-learning process.

One of the best ways is using storytelling as a pedagogical tool because undeniably, children pay more attention when they are listening to stories instead of listening to teacher's usual way of presenting lectures. Keith Caldwell (2012) said that "the magic of storytelling changes the atmosphere in the classroom and in so doing enhances the learning environment." She also added that stories serve to open the mind so that the hearer is ready to take things in and "once the heart is won, the mind is open to learn". If the students will be interested in the way how the teacher delivers the lesson through storytelling, they are more likely to listen and make inferences and predictions about the topic while the teacher is telling story in front of the class.

Further, since storytelling is very interactive, it enables the students to be more imaginative and there is a higher chance for them to ask questions regarding what the teacher is telling. Storytelling alone is not enough because the teacher must use some
techniques to raise curiosity among the students while he or she is telling a story. If the students become curious, there is a possibility that they might ask some questions regarding the topic and makes them think which can result into more interactive teaching-learning process because students will become involved in the discussion. It gives them opportunity to listen, think and understand rather than talking with their classmates during the presentation of the lesson.

According to Hjamil Martínez-Vázquez (2009), one of the major problems with education today is the lack of connection between the subject matter and the student-learners so he argued that "storytelling as an active participatory activity would get students involved within the process of learning and through storytelling, students are able to put themselves inside of the action and not stay as passive recipients". Storytelling is better than any other pedagogical tools because some techniques or ways of teaching just simply let the students acquire and grasp information but in storytelling, the teacher is helping the learners to think critically, learn better and understand concepts rather than just passively listen to what the teacher is trying to inculcate in their minds.

Aside from these, there are also other benefits that storytelling could give to children such as enhancing their vocabulary because they will encounter a lot of words which are not familiar to them, and those unfamiliar words would be unlocked as they ask what is the meaning or as the teacher define what those words are. Also, stories being told can stir opinions among students in which they are likely to think critically. It is a good practice because they would be able to express their thoughts and have a self-confidence in presenting their own ideas and perspectives. The teaching-learning process will also be more engaging and effective because students may relate to some stories in which they can connect to their own experiences and eventually reflect to their past experiences.
Peggy Albers (2016) noted that stories help the children in perceiving real life situations. Thus, the result of her research that children learn how to behave, think, and act through the characters that they meet through stories. The stories being told to them have a great impact on how they think and behave that is why storytelling can be considered as a powerful tool of communication most especially when teaching students. The strong influence that stories could give to children shows how storytelling as a pedagogical tool is effective in promoting learning.

The challenges of being a teacher do not end with tons of paper works and daily routine of standing and speaking in front of the class to teach. It may seem so simple if you watch or observe how a teacher teaches but what others do not know is there are times that teachers struggle in choosing what pedagogical tools or what techniques they should use in order for their students to learn better. It is true that sometimes, their salary does not compensate for their efforts and hardships but what keep them going are their passion and will to gear students with necessary skills and knowledge that they need for their future endeavours that lie ahead when they are already in higher level of education. Sometimes, it is not really about what you can receive, but what you can willingly give.

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