My Favorite Teacher Contest

Ryan Rivera | 12th Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Sherilyn Little

School: Northwest Guilford High School

September 9th 2015, 3rd period, Room 101. “Attitude is Contagious”. It is these three words that immensely impacted the rest of my day. My English teacher Mrs. Little was showing us a quote about attitude by Charles Swindoll, unveiling to us how our attitude can change our perspective on how we go about our daily lives and how a shift in attitude is admirable with others. She is so insightful and wise, every time she speaks you can tell that she speaks from a place of passion and purpose. I have never met an educator so intriguingly dedicated to her craft and to her students. When it comes to Mrs. Little’s class, I gained much more than just being able to tell the difference between a verb and an adverb. I learned about life, how hard it is and will be; but also how beautiful and exuberant it can be.

To me, Mrs. Little is far more than a High School English teacher. To me she is a wise, profoundly intelligent, dedicated, unbounded soul. To me, when she looks at me, she really looks at me, connecting with me in a way that comforts my soul allowing me to open up and explore beyond my minds capacities to search the unsearchable and create the uncreatable. To me, she has left behind a rich vibrancy within Northwest that no individual shall ever be able to recreate or even come close to. She allowed me to see from within myself the potential and value I always had, but never knew I had. To me, I have been able to always remind myself that no matter how discouraging life may be at times, it is still a good day to be alive and breathing in oxygen and that has been a catalyst with my attitude over the past year. She once said something like, “Every second that you are living in, you will never get that moment back, that is compelling and a great awareness to make it count”. To me, this showed just how important and valuable every day I’m alive is and that I will never get this day back so I should look at my days as opportunities instead of chores. To me, I know that I will never have another teacher like Mrs. Little again. I am beyond grateful to have met such a golden soul. Being able to connect with an educator where it is far more than just a mediocre teacher and student dynamic. I’m not sure Mrs. Little knows just how many lives she had touched since she began her journey of educating the students of Northwest. To me, she has surpassed all normal expectations which a student would brand on their teacher. She has this way of connecting with me to where I feel valued and appreciated just by being in her presence. To me, I would not have accomplished all that I have accomplished, experienced what I have experienced and evolved the way I have evolved without her irreplaceable presence in my life. I want her to know that I will always think of her and the salient impact she has left on my being and attitude. I will pass on her lessons of attitude and making every moment count to my friends, my loved ones and to my future children one day, forever making her teachings immortal. I cannot Thank you enough for all you have done for me, but I hope you know just how appreciated you will always be.

Thank You Mrs. Little.

- Ryan Rivera