

Joy of teaching

TEACHING is a fascinating challenge because it really is about learning – there is another person involved in all of this.

In the animated movie *Peter Pan*, Peter tries to teach Wendy and her brothers to fly. Flying is completely second nature to Peter, however, so describing that process becomes impossible. Fortunately, Tinkerbell's pixie dust fixes everything.

In the process of teaching and learning, we are always looking for this pixie dust. I love this process of continuously inventing means to understand.

I love who I am when I am teaching. The “me” that comes out in the classroom sings, dances, uses big words and is confident. Most of all, this “me” gets to make stories that attempt to explain concepts, structures and ideas to people, from children to adults. This “me” gets to look for that

elusive pixie dust.

The influences in my life that have driven me to teach have been my own teachers, both in and out of classrooms, and I model my teaching aspirations after them.

The greatest teacher I have known is my mother. My home is filled with her wisdom in phrases such as “We wear our nice clothes when we have visitors” and “We must finish whatever food is on our plate”. She taught me a great deal about listening, expressing myself and becoming a mother.

All my great teachers have made me want to learn more by instilling a sense of wonder in me. A teacher gets to witness learning, confusion, comprehension, frustration, change, passion, awareness – the very things that seem to be at the core of humanity.

I don't teach because I have an altruistic goal of making the world a better place; I teach because it makes me feel alive. It allows me to be the person that I, completely selfishly, want to be. – **By Dr Elsie Chin, master trainer at Cambridge English for Life (CEFL)**

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