What is a Good Teacher?

A good school is everyone’s right!
Dad, who is your hero?

My hero? What do you mean?

In school we have to write an essay about our heroes... who is yours?
Hmm... well, Hassan, I’d say my hero is Mr. Jonathan, my P5 teacher.

A teacher?! Why?

He always helped me a lot whenever I didn’t understand.
He was kind... he treated us all equally.

Sure?

Yeah, but he was so strict!

He expected me to work hard... no excuses!
I always wanted to please him.

He made me feel like I could do anything!

Really? My teachers sometimes make me feel stupid!
Many of mine did too. That is why I loved Mr. Jonathan.

He always respected me.

Did he ever cane you?

Ohh... I was caned by others! But Mr. Jonathan never used the stick.
Never?!

No, never. I was always comfortable to go to him. I trusted him!

Wow, Dad! I wish Mr. Jonathan could teach at my school!
Good Schools have good teachers like Mr. Jonathan!
A good teacher can help children develop to their full potential!
So, what is a good teacher?

A good teacher helps the students learn.

They:

1. teach creatively!
2. understand how we learn!
3. use positive discipline!
1 good teacher?

2 has many qualities...

3 4. care about us!

5. take pride in our school!

6. meet our good teachers
Good teachers are like my teacher,

Teacher Fortunate teaches us creatively!
She encourages self expression...

Try this colour...

provokes curiosity

Why do you think the maize grows better here?
She encourages me to ask questions,

But why do some plants turn brown?

and to think for myself

Is it because there’s too much sun?

Or maybe not enough water?
to try out new things

Oh, new books I haven’t read!

and to learn from my mistakes!

I wish I’d asked for help reaching!
Your teacher sounds great!

My teacher, Madame Shamin, is also a good teacher! She understands how we learn!
She knows that teachers do much more than lecture.

What do you mean?
Listen, today many students learn by memorising.

Teachers rely on lots of note taking.
The teacher focuses on giving us information,

not on how that information is received.
The teacher believes if a student doesn’t understand, or fails an exam, it’s because they aren’t trying hard enough.

When the teacher feels angry,

These students are lazy!

They don’t respect my teaching!
they may use fear and shame to motivate students.

This hurts our learning!

How?
Because we get scared, we become quiet and lose interest. We begin to believe we are poor learners.

And that can follow us our whole lives!

If you can’t learn this new accounting system by next week...

I can’t learn it! I’m just no good!
A good teacher knows that learning is more than memorising!

A good teacher helps us to know what to do with information... not just store it in our heads.
A good teacher helps us learn in 4 stages.

1. Grasp
2. Analyse
3. Explore
4. Apply
First, we need to grasp the information.

10 = sh.300/

But secondly, we need to analyze it.

If 10 bananas cost 300/=, how much will 1 cost?

10 = sh.300/=  
1 = sh.?/=

We need to compare it to what we already know
and decide what is useful,

\[
\begin{align*}
10 \text{ bananas} &= \text{Sh. } 300/ = \\
\text{cookie} &= \text{Sh. } 400/ =
\end{align*}
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I want 6 bananas, how much will it cost?

and what makes sense.

10 bananas are 300/=  
But I’ll give you half for only 200/=  

Should I buy it?
Does everyone sell bananas at the same price?

How much will 1, 50/= bananas cost?

Thirdly, we need to explore

If I have 500/=, how many bananas can I buy?

and find out what this information means.
Finally, we need to apply our knowledge...

How much money do I need to have every week if I want to buy 10 bananas every day?

\[ \text{sh.} \ 300/x \ 7 = ? \]

to take what we learned

How much money could I save if I bought 5 bananas every day instead of 10? What would I do with the money?
and imagine what we can do with it!
Learning is a process that requires skills.
A good teacher helps children develop the skills needed for all 4 stages.
That’s a great way to learn!

Let me tell you about my teacher, Teacher Jimmy...
He’s a good teacher because he uses positive discipline!

Teacher Jimmy never uses the cane!
He helps us to learn from our mistakes

How would you feel if someone stole your books? How would you study?
He teaches us to make good decisions

because he cares about our development.
And when we make mistakes, Teacher Jimmy uses positive discipline to help us understand what we did wrong...

Stella, you will apologise to your classmates for disturbing class. And I’m shifting your seat to the front.

He never uses fear or shame;

Your performance has improved!
Your essay was very good!
he has fair and firm rules

I expect all of you to follow these rules. Are they clear?

CLASS RULES
1. Be on time
2. Respect each other
3. Complete Homework
   - Thank you!

and when we break the rules, we know what the consequences will be.

Stella, you’re late with your work again. I think you know the rules

Yes, sir. I have to stay after class and finish it.
Your teacher is a good teacher!

Let me tell you about my teacher, Ms. Harriet! She is a good teacher too!
Ms. Harriet is a good teacher because she takes pride in our school!

She takes pride in our environment
and in her profession.

She is clever and keeps learning new skills.
She looks for information everywhere

and uses her mind all the time!
She is involved in the classroom,

with the administration,
with parents

and with the whole community!

SPORTS DAY

Welcome parents!
That’s great!

My teacher, Mr. Ahmed is a good teacher too. He cares about me!
He has time for me. He listens to my problems.

I’m sorry, Hassan. Come to the staff room and we can talk.

He tries to help me.

How is home?
He encourages not just success, but effort!

Well done, Hassan! Last term you were number 22!
He respects me.

Hassan, you may borrow this book. I trust you’ll return it.

He wants me to succeed

Go! You can do it!
and takes pride in who I become.
Mr. Ahmed is my role model!

Well done team!!!!

When I grow up
I want to be just like Mr. Ahmed...
Good teachers are
are our heroes!!!!!
A Good School has

We teach creatively!
We understand how children learn!
We use positive discipline!

Does your school have good...
good teachers!

We take pride in our school!

We care about our students!

Good teachers?
What can you do to be a good teacher?

- Help students after class!
- Take interest in students!
- Encourage questions!
- Try new teaching methods besides lecturing!
- Study new things for yourself!
- Meet with parents!
- Compliment students for trying!
- Throw away the cane!
- Be a role model!
- Share and discuss your experiences with other teachers!
How to use this booklet:

- Make a list of what a good teacher is for you.
- Ask friends or colleagues to make the same list and compare.
- Read this book together with other teachers or students in your school. Discuss what it means to be a good teacher.
- Teachers: read one section a week during staff meetings and discuss how to use some of the ideas.
- Discuss possible challenges to achieving these goals. Make a list of how they can be overcome.
- Students: read one section a week with your friends. Try to identify good teachers in your school.