

“A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others.”
Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

My favorite teacher

It's not a secret that many of us have or had a favorite teacher at school. But first of all we think about teachers from elementary school, secondary or high school. Of course, all of them play such a big and important role in our lives almost as our relatives and even parents do. And what about all those brilliant teachers from music and art schools? Why no one ever mentions them? I want to change it.

My favorite teacher is my vocal teacher who has been teaching me for three years. Her name is Arina Victorovna. She was very kind, talented, interesting and cheerful person. When it was only one year of our classes, I've already felt like she's a part of my soul. For the first six months it was really difficult to sing properly and it was very stressful for me. But Arina Victorovna supported me many times and always believed in me. Thanks to her I kept on working.

Arina Victorovna was a hard-working person. She always took part in the organization of various concerts. And usually we, her students, took part in those concerts, too. Our teacher and we were together at almost every event. She also arranged additional rehearsals before the exams. It helped me to concentrate on them and to feel no tense. But she sacrificed her personal time to listen to each of her students.

Now, when I have already finished my music school and Arina Victorovna has left this school too, I really miss her. And I even can't call her or send a short message as I could do a while ago. Probably she has changed her phone number. But even if I never see her again and can never contact her, I'll remember about my favorite teacher, the memories of whom still inspire me.



Vocabulary

mention [menʃn] упоминать,
ссылаться
arrange [ə'reɪndʒ] организовать,
устроить
rehearsal [rɪ'hɜ:səl] репетиция
inspire [ɪn'spaɪə] вдохновить

Questions for discussion

1. Do you go to after school clubs and extra lessons?
2. Do you try to be a friendly person? Why or why not?
3. How does one person's character affect the personalities of surrounding people? Are you influenced by people you know? Give an example.
4. Do you have hobbies? What are your hobbies?

Finish the sentences and tell about your hobby:

A hobby is...

I have got ... hobbies.

My favourite hobby is...

It helps me...

I think it is...

“Education is the movement from darkness to light”
Allan Bloom

I'm thankful for all that you have done



School is a huge part of our lives almost everyday for eleven years straight. We learn not only basic subjects, we also learn how to think or how to solve problems, we learn a lot about life. And it is all thanks to our teachers. My story is going to be about a teacher who really inspires me.

Lydiya Alekseevna was my geography teacher from seventh to ninth grade. At that time I had just entered this school and Lydiya Alekseevna was one of the very first teachers I met in the new school. I was really impressed during our first lesson with her. And I guess everyone felt the same. It was so interesting! She is one of those teachers who adore their subject and encourage you to study it.

She taught us everything about countries, rivers, mountains, oceans. We also learned a lot about our own country. Every lesson was extremely interesting, so I often felt like the lessons lasted for three minutes and definitely not forty-five minutes.

I am really grateful to Lydiya Alekseevna for everything she had taught me. I think right now I have pretty wide knowledge in geography. Unfortunately, we don't have geography these days but I will always be thankful for everything she has done for us, her students.

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you like geography?
2. Do you know a lot about the geography of your country?
3. What were your geography teachers like?
4. Is your general knowledge of geography good?
5. What is the difference between geography and ecology?
6. What do you think it would be like to be a geographer?
7. How important is it to study geography at school?
8. What are the most important things about geography that children need to know?
9. How well do you know your local geography – the area near your house?
10. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go? Why?

Geography quiz:

1. Which river flows through Paris?
2. Where in the British Isles is Lady Isabella, the world's largest working water wheel?
3. What is the capital city of Slovenia, formerly part of the state of Yugoslavia?
4. Which European country shares its border with the most neighbours (nine)?
5. Which Asian country is bigger than France, Spain and Germany combined but has a population of little over two million?
6. What is Europe's largest port?
7. In which country is the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis?
8. Mount Vesuvius overlooks which modern Italian city?

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
Benjamin Franklin

My favourite teacher

Today I am in the 11th grade. By this time, everybody should choose their profession, or sphere where they will work. So, I made my choice, but not only by myself. I had help from my teachers. They inspired me and guided to the right path. My story will be about one of them. Olga Nailovna is my IT teacher. She started teaching us when we were in the 10th form. She immediately involved all of the class into the subject. We have started participating in incredible amount of concerts and IT Olympiads. IT lessons in our class became fascinating. Olga Nailovna taught us about programming languages and algorithms. This knowledge is very useful for me, because it will be needed in my future profession.



I respect my teacher not only for informative lessons. Olga Nailovna inspires us. We participate in team Olympiads with her help. She teaches us to read tasks attentively and to find solutions for them. It is very hard. Because contests we take part in are far more complicated than usual school tests. Our teacher instill us with analytic type of thinking. Today we can hypothesize by ourselves and prove or disprove them, and we can use these theories for tasks completion.

I have already said about team contests we participate in. I shall say about one of them. It was in the 10th form. We have been studying with Olga Nailovna for more than a month. Our team members stayed after lessons just to interact with our teacher. Eventually, we almost won that contest. We took a solid second place in the Olympiad. Today we are trying to win the same contest this year.

Also, besides contests and Olympiads, Olga Nailovna teaches us about our future profession. We are doing a considerable amount of projects. She shows us how to implement our ideas into life. I highly respect her for this. Now I have no doubts about my future job and sphere of work. Not only I, but everyone from my class is grateful to Olga Nailovna for her work.

Technology Conversation Questions

1. Do you get excited by new technology? What kinds of technology interest you?
2. Is technology developing faster than it used to? Are you worried about being left behind?
3. When you get a new product, do you read the instruction manual? Or do you just figure it out?
4. How much time do you spend online each week? Is it too much time, or a reasonable amount?
5. What are some of your favorite websites? What can you do on them?
6. How do you feel if you forget your mobile phone and leave it somewhere?
7. Which electronics brands do you trust most? Are you loyal to one brand?
8. Are you an early adopter? Do you like to have cutting edge technology? Are there any disadvantages to buying the latest product?
9. Some people dislike or fear technology. Do you know anyone like this?