

A Philosophy of Teaching

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Students these days, spoon-fed
cows that chew the mental cud,
uncaring of the earth that sprouts,
nor of the stomach that digests.

They have brick-wall eyes
the not-bothered attitude lampooned by comics.
The world is their oyster and they steal pearls
from tired confused teachers.

Information is abbreviated into sound bytes;
live mpegs with low resolution so that it can be streamed
directly into the brain and only half-absorbed.
Synapses casually firing and misfiring;
held until assessed
then released.

Students submit essays in sms.
Then teachers sos each other “wtf?”
NFI!
LOL

Pedagogy gets mired in TLA’s, policies,
surveys and red-tape requirements.
Teaching is more admin these days,
more circus management than shared experience,
more programming than execution.

Ah, but teachers are learning the technology,
the hardware and software that accompanies delivery
and not the intricacy of involvement.
Ah, but teachers are planning the lesson,
the structure, the pedagogy,
and forget to revel in the lesson.
Ah, but teachers are learning about bureaucracy
and not the beauty of discovery that sometimes
glints in student eyes.

And at the lesson – one bored face faces twenty - maybe more.
Endless reflection – yes!
That’s after the teaching has finished.