

A Dilemma in Our Life

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Motivation

After reading Lesson One "The Day I Broke the Rule" in Book 3, we thought of a similar experience when we were doing volunteer service. In Lesson One, the author was faced with a dilemma, and in the end, he chose to stick to his faith and fulfilled the child's wish. Thus, we would like to share our experience and promote the idea of quality education and equitable care.

Introduction of Dream Chaser

Dream Chaser was founded in the spring of 2015 by a group of passionate high school students in Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School. Dream Chasers upholds the idea of sustained engagement by holding winter and summer camps at several indigenous elementary schools.

The reason we keep organizing these activities is that we strongly believe children shouldn't receive unequal education just because they live in remote areas.

Our target is to "guard children's smiles."

EV3 Robot

We hope to improve the technical knowledge in remote areas by leading indigenous children to implement robot courses





Scientific Scavenger Hunt

By designing checkpoints and combining science with games to arouse children's enthusiasm about science.







SDGs 4

Dream Chaser has been continuously trying to improve the quality of education for indigenous children in challenging circumstances.

The reasons why we organize Dream Chaser are specifically guided by Target 4.5 of Goal 4. Target 4.5 aims to "eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations."



Summary of the Story in B3 L1

In our English textbook, there is a story talking about a man who dressed as a clown in a hospital. He tried to bring joy to those children who were suffering from terminal illnesses.

In this story, the man broke a rule which forbids him to have physical contact with the children. This rule was made because they were afraid the children may be infected by germs.

However, the child, who had been given a hug by the man, was so happy to have a chance to have close intimacy with a clown. After seeing the child's smile, the man realized that sometimes there are things that are more important than rules. After we finished reading the story, this article powerfully resonated with us since I had a similar experience with the protagonist.

Summary of the Story in B3 L1

The dilemma that the author faced in "The Day I Broke the Rules"

Not to Break the Rule

"I wasn't permitted to have any physical contact with the children either, since doing so might pass on germs to them."

To Break the Rule

"It was really heartbreaking to see such a young boy confined to a hospital bed."

"That's when he stretched out his tiny arms to hug me. I was about to refuse again, but then I saw the look of hope in his eyes."

Summary of the Story in B3 L1

The author finally gave the seriously ill kid a warm hug. He realized he no longer cared if he was caught breaking the rules. After all, love is more important than anything in our life.

Our Dilemma

As members of Dream Chaser, we have undergone a remarkable experience. When we first arrived at Guhua elementary school, an adorable child, named Ian, always focused on every program. When we asked questions during the courses, Ian would raise his hand immediately to answer them. His behavior impressed all the members of Dream Chaser. We established a great friendship with him. Sometimes he would perform some magic tricks and then we would give him a thumbs-up as praise and encouragement.

Our Dilemma

Once, Ian asked us to carry him on our back. Meanwhile, another child said to us, "Our teacher said never let the members carry us." We were curious about the reason. Afterward, we realized the reason we shouldn't carry those children was that their teachers hoped the children in Guhua school should get independent and grow up. Thus, we don't need to satisfy their every requirement. Another reason, we guessed, was that since we came from other cities, the teacher was worried we might bring some germs to the kids.

Our Dilemma

Although many reasons were indicating we shouldn't carry Ian on our back, he still kept asking us to do this. We looked into his eyes, which are crystal-clear and charming. This situation was similar to the story in Lesson 1 "The Day I Broke the Rules", where the protagonist was also caught in a dilemma. At that moment, we didn't know whether we should break the rule or not. We didn't want to violate the teacher's rule, and at the same time, we didn't want to break Ian's heart.





FINALLY, WE DECIDED TO CARRY HIM.
SEEING HIS FACE FULFILLED WITH A BIG SMILE,
WE KNEW THAT WE WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING!





Our Decision

We made the same decision as the author of Lesson 1. We both chose to break the rules. The reason we did this is that in our minds, empathy, love, and faith play a more important role than rules.

In addition, since the goal of Dream Chaser is to raise the quality of rural education and equitable treatment, we would like to achieve the goal through establishing a harmonious relationship between children and us. In other words, we get close to them as friends learning and playing together rather than as teachers instructing and guiding them.

Reflection

There are lots of choices in our lives. How to deal with the dilemma in life depends on our wisdom and what our faith is. Children are Dream Chaser's first consideration, just like the protagonist in our textbook, and then the group comes the second; individuals, the last. After this experience, we put our faith into practice. This is really a remarkable experience, and we will always keep this memory in mind. Whenever we face such a dilemma, we will make our choices with no regret.

Future Goal

For our future goal, aside from broadening the service area, Dream Chaser would also like to ameliorate the quality of the curriculum activities. The group can achieve higher goals by holding team assistant training and giving members chances to simulate the reality before the actual camp.







There are still countless elementary schools that our group cannot reach. Therefore, Dream Chaser appeals to other urban high schools to start up similar groups with the same goals and organize camps in rural primary schools around Taiwan in order to help more kids. Hopefully, no one will be left out someday in the future.

Conclusion

In conclusion, everyone has the right to get equitable quality education. Through Dream Chaser, a group of volunteer students who spread their love and knowledge for indigenous schools, they try their best to narrow the urban-rural gap of education in Taiwan. Dream Chaser has always been working hard to achieve excellence. The modification of curriculum activities may be a process, but it is by no means the end. However, what remains unchanged is "guarding children's smiles." This is the spirit of Dream Chaser; it is the warmest and largest, but also the purest, motivation for all group members.

CHERISH MEMORIES, MEANINGFUL LESSONS AND JOYFUL CAMPS ARE WHAT WE WANT TO GIVE TO CHILDREN. BUT AFTER ALL, THE COMPANY THAT WE GIVE IS WHAT MATTERS MOST.

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