**The Best Teacher Ever**

There's a story from many years ago of a primary school teacher. Her name was Mrs. Thompson and as she stood in front of her fifth grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said she loved them all the same.

But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed he didn't play well with the other children, his clothes were messy and he constantly needed a bath. Teddy could be quite unpleasant.

It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold Xs and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers. At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last.

However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners. He is a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs.. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful paper and tied with pretty ribbons, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper he got from a grocery bag.

Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my mom used to."

After the children left, she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead she began to teach children.

Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded.. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class, and despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

Eight years passed and Mrs Thompson received a letter from Teddy. This time, he explained that after he got his Bachelor degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now, his name was a little longer. The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

English First Additional Language

Grade 12

Listening Test – 2012

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* 1. Where is Mrs Thompson a school teacher and what grade is she teaching?

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* 1. What lie did she tell the children of her class?

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* 1. Quote four consecutive words from paragraph 2 which shows Teddy did not feel very positive about school.

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* 1. Which mark did Mrs Thompson like to give Teddy and what does that mark represent?

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* 1. In your words say why you think Mrs Thomson decide to read Teddy’s report on his progress last?

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* 1. If you look at the comments on his report cards, which major event changed Teddy’s life?

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* 1. Why do you think is there no comment for Teddy’s third grade?

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* 1. Why do you think does Teddy sometimes sleep in class in the fourth grade?

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1.9 Why do you think did some of the children laugh at the gifts Teddy gave his teacher?

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1.10 Why were the gifts important to Teddy? Comment on each gift.

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1.11 Quote a sentence that could suggest Teddy’s mother passed away.

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1.12 Why was it not wrong, in this case, that Teddy became the “teacher’s pet”?

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1.13 What does the abbreviation MD stand for?

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1.14 What do you think did Mrs Thompson learn from Teddy? Mention only one thing.

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