

My name is Orion, and I'm 20 years old. I was doing some reminiscing on my school days and stumbled across this page and had to say something.

One of my earliest formative memories was of you coming to my kindergarten. I remember you putting a hydrophobic substance on my finger and having me stick it in a cup of water. I so vividly remember how amazed I was that my finger was dry. For years, I've been telling this story as the moment I fell in love with science.

Then, years later, I switched schools and once again I remembering you doing several assemblies there, and even doing an after school club of which I was of course a part. By this point, my love of science was wholly solidified.

If I had to pick one thing about myself of which I am the most proud, it would without a doubt be my inquisitive nature. I always ask questions. My family often gets a kick out of the random questions I'll ask to nobody but myself about seemingly mundane things that everyone takes for granted. I always wonder why things are the way they are, and how they got to be that way. I think to myself "what is the purpose of this? What are the mechanics behind this?", and I usually then go and educate myself on it. I love learning more than anything, and I always strive to be as grounded in science as is possible.

I firmly and sincerely believe your demonstrations and lessons played a very large role in making me that way.

"Of course if you dip your finger in water it will get wet" I thought, "that's just how it works."

But my finger didn't get wet. Because things aren't usually as simple as that. Nothing is unquestionable and everything can be understood if you stand to ask those questions.

So, thank you. You left an imprint on me that I carry to this day, and for that I'm grateful.