

## **I'm Very Thankful to Have Read These Words**

Jeremy Little - Spring 2014 IL-ACDA "Podium"

Rather than a lengthy article to read during this busy season, I thought a short list of quotes and books might be in order. This list isn't exhaustive nor particularly focused on any one area. Each quote and books have served as a springboard toward introspection, growth, and ultimately learning in my classroom with my students, centered around the great thing we call "music." Hopefully, this list will do the same for you.

### **Quotes**

"Laughing brains are more absorbent." – Alton Brown

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did; but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou

"Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity." – Simon Weil

"We should judge teaching not be the amount of knowledge it passes on, but by the enduring excitement it creates." – Gary Gutting

"Wisdom begins in wonder." – Socrates

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up." -Pablo Picasso

"The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism." -Norman Vincent Peale

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." - Albert Pike

"Work is about a search for daily meaning as well as daily bread, for recognition as well as cash, for astonishment rather than torpor; in short, for a sort of life rather than a Monday through Friday sort of dying." - Studs Terkel

"Song is the pen of the soul." -Rabbi Chiam Drizin

"To listen is an effort. Just to hear has no merit. A duck hears also." - Igor Stravinsky

"Any great work of art...revives and readapts time and space, and the measure of its success is the extent to which it makes you an inhabitant of that world – the extent to which it invites you in and lets you breathe its strange, special air." - Leonard Bernstein

### **Books**

The Courage to Teach (Parker Palmer) – Key Idea: "Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher...Good teachers join self, subject, and students in the fabric of life."

Lighting Their Fires (Rafe Esquith) – "Students aren't born extraordinary, they become that way...It takes great sacrifice, effort, and preparation to make this journey with your kid."

-A quote from a former student of the author, on how his classroom prepared her for life beyond: "I was provoked to think. I was challenged to stay away from the ordinary. And I did."

Out of Our Minds (Ken Robinson) – “When people say to me that they are not creative, I assume they haven’t yet learnt what is involved.”

Letters to a Young Poet (Rainer Maria Rilke) – “Try to love the *questions* themselves, like locked rooms and like books written in a foreign language. Do not now look for the answers. They cannot now be given to you because you could not live them. It is a question of experiencing everything. At present, you need to *live* the question. Perhaps you will gradually, without even noticing it, find yourself experiencing the answer, some distant day.”

The Talent Code (Daniel Coyle) – “Greatness isn’t born. It’s grown. Here’s how.”

A Whole New Mind (Daniel Pink) – “Left-brain-style thinking used to be the driver and right-brain-style thinking the passenger...Instead, R-Directed (right-brain) aptitudes so often disdained and dismissed – artistry, empathy, taking the long view, pursuing the transcendent – will increasingly determine who soars and who stumbles.”

The Architecture of Happiness (Alain de Botton) – “Belief in the significance of architecture is premised... on the conviction that it is the architect’s task to render vivid to us who we might ideally be.” AND “We delight in the complexity to which genius has lent an appearance of simplicity.”