



*I was just
thinking...*

**NO MORE SCHOOL,
NO MORE BOOKS,
NO MORE TEACHERS' DIRTY LOOKS...**

School's out! It's the age-old cry of triumph. But yesterday my friend Helen Zell told me about the remarkable ability of her daughter's kindergarten teacher and was so moved she ran out of words.

Helen Zell doesn't run out of words often, but little Annie's teacher is the kind who seems to achieve minor miracles with five-year-olds.

I began to remember my own beloved Mrs. Greeley, who replaced terror with love in my own kindergarten days. And Miss Pike, my third-grade teacher, became so much a part of our childhood that we petitioned the principal to permit her to continue with us into fourth grade. All of us, including Miss Pike, wept when the request was denied.

In high school there was Miss Abell, whose encouragement produced my first "column," and Blythe Lamm, beautiful in name and spirit, who instilled in me an enduring appreciation of history. And Miss Rait, whose geometry

I never understood fully but whose skill in teaching integrity and honor made me her lifelong admirer.

I fell hopelessly in love with most of the male teachers, but even they gave me in return more than I realized. Algebra in Mr. Purdy's classroom was a delightful torment. And somehow I managed to retain Ed Lambert's invaluable basic instruction in journalism long after his gentle voice had passed from memory. I would cheerfully have expired at my desk for an approving nod from Gil Schantz, yet his wise inspiration gave me my first real self-confidence at a typewriter.

Some teachers, of course, never should have been allowed in a classroom, but they were few and far between. The rest had a special empathy with eager mind.

There is no real substitute for the patient kindness and the skilled inspiration a true teacher gives a child. These men and women, whom I love now as I did then face-to-face, have become a part of the sum total which is myself.

How seldom we realize this influence.

How seldom we acknowledge a great debt.

Patty Johnson

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