

Chapter 13

Theme:

Random or Pandom? Great teachers have a plan and very little happens at random.

Single Best Quote:

“Great teachers have a plan and purpose for everything they do. ...they reflect on what they could have done differently and adjust their plans accordingly.”

Points:

1. Great teachers make a plan and take responsibility for the outcome.
2. Many times the failure in the classroom occurs because the teacher allowed it to happen.
3. Great teachers take responsibility. It may be in the classroom, at an assembly or in the hallway.
4. Faculty Meeting illustration...sad. I've known administrators like this who were in over their heads and had to manipulate their staff. I admire the administrator who can stare down the Cynics Club with their “administrator-rays” or “A-rays”. Teachers know when they have outplayed and have intimidated the administration when the administration has to start playing seating-chart games in a faculty meeting. If you can't control the staff in a meeting, what are you going to do when they meet in the hallway? The teacher's lounge? The bar after school? Or, spread their attitude to parents and community members? How are you going to control and arrange that? A teaching staff is not one period of the school day. There is a better way of controlling and manipulating the cynics club! Try listening, interacting, joining, building relationships and influencing. And, if they are a problem, seriously, get rid of them. They are a cancer on your staff. Staff are not students. Staff are employees.

Self-evaluation and application as a:

- **Shop teacher** – when I am prepared by having supplies and tools ready, class goes smoothly. When I am unprepared, or the children have to stand and wait for me to get supplies ready, or equipment is broke then chaos is unleashed. Students are never bored. I might be boring, but the students will keep themselves entertained. That's the nature of the learner: be entertained and engaged. It is better for me (and, my class) that I am the one entertaining and engaging the student. If I am boring, the students will find something else to keep themselves entertained and engaged. Then, I have a problem. And, it is my problem that I created (or, did not avoid!).
- **Bible teacher** – I cannot move the cynics out of my class, but have to impress them, capture their attention and command their respect from my presentation. There are no seating charts for a public event.
- **Parent** – keep your home interesting with positive activities, interesting routines and original plans, otherwise the children will despise the boredom/chaos of home
- **Person** –

Questions/Criticisms/Evaluations/Comments of Whitaker's presentation or perspective:

- Good chapter.
- Crucial advice.
- Absolutely a necessary skill to succeed in the classroom.