

I Taught Them Too
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For a score and a half years I have taught.
I have graded more papers than Stephen King has written,
few as good.
I have written over 200 letters of recommendation.
I know if only a few were successful.
I now teach my second generation.
If I knew myself back then, I would have told myself,
“Someday you’ll teach the children of these children.”
And, “Some days you’ll teach English, and some days you’ll teach kids.”
Some are bankers, some grocers, insurance, and realty,
some stayed, most left.
It seems the smart ones left.

I taught the kid in the army fatigues.
I taught the valedictorians.
I taught the kid who got drunk at lunchtime.
I taught the cowboys.
I taught the bullied geek.
I coached the actors, oh the actors!

The kid in the fatigues works at the Pentagon.
(They interviewed me for his clearance.)
The valedictorian is a nurse.
The drunk now has his own kids in my class.
(He’s worried about their behavior, as his mom once was.)
The cowboys took over the ranch.
The geek, who got bullied, now employs 200 people,
(And has already made more money than I ever will.)
And the actors... Oh the actors.
I haven’t heard my name mentioned in a speech yet,
But I think I’m close.