

Autobiographical Reflection: Who am I?

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As a child, my career path seemed to change everyday. Teacher, mom, veterinarian, and marine biologist were always my top contenders. While I grew the list continued to grow as well, but the careers on my mental list always shared one main focus, which was helping others.

I grew up in Carrot River, which is in the Northeast part of Saskatchewan. I lived on a farm, just a few minutes outside of town. I feel that growing up in a small community had an enormous impact on my identity. When you think of a small town girl, that really is the perfect way to describe me. My entire childhood was spent running around chasing our farm cats, going for combine and tractor rides with my Dad, and riding my horse, Flash. When I was young, my Dad worked as a driller on an oil rig in Alberta during the winter, and farmed grain the remainder of the year. This left my Mom to mainly raise my Brother and I, which was quite a challenge for her. My Mom owned her own hair salon, but then sold it when I was about six months old. She then turned one of the bedrooms of our house into a little hair studio, so when my Mom was not busy with a client, it would then turn into my hair salon, where I provided top quality haircuts to all my dolls. During this time, she was also working as a casual CCA, and going through distance education to receive her LPN diploma. Though she was struggling, she always put my Brother and I first. She showed us so much patience and kindness, and continues to have the same attitude with her patients. She is now a very successful LPN, has continued to upgrade her education, and is treasurer for the Saskatchewan Health Authority. My mother has taught me to always show people compassion, but remain strong-willed. She is such an amazing nurse, mother and wife, and I hope to one day make her as proud of me, as I am of her.

Throughout my school experience, it was shared by the same twenty three classmates. This made the beginning of my learning career quite a comfortable one, as I always knew my classmates and teachers very personally. As a student, I always felt understood, and was treated

with fairness. Our teacher's felt if they gave us adult freedoms, in return they would receive adult actions. We had a lot of control in the classroom, which made my learning experience a unique one.

The reason for these freedoms was our highschool principal, Mr. Armstrong. Mr A, as he preferred to be called, dedicated his career to making school a positive experience. Mr Armstrong had unique ways of teaching. While reading Shakespeare he would use different impressions for each character, his most popular were Sean Connery and Scooby-Doo. Without even realizing it, Mr Armstrong inspired so many students to be themselves, and have fun while learning. He also taught his students respect, self control, and ensured we were prepared for our futures. For one of our final projects in grade twelve, Mr. A made each one of my classmates and I our own personal assignment, as a surprise for our study of *Tuesdays with Morrie*. My assignment was to create a soundtrack of ten songs to the book. This was a very meaningful moment to me, as it made me realize I want to make an impact on people the same way Mr. A does, with kindness and understanding.

After I graduated highschool, I moved to Regina, and was enrolled in the Pre-Social Work program at University of Regina. After a semester, I decided that social work was not for me. I still felt that I needed to make a positive impact on someone's life in some way, which led me to Avant-Garde Beauty College, in pursuit of my hairstylist diploma. During my time at Avant-Garde, I interacted with lots of children either cutting their hair or doing their Mom or Dad's hair. After all these experiences I realized my true passion was working with children. I loved hearing their stories, and views of the world. I realized I could make a positive impact on these children, through education. After taking a year off to work, I made my decision final and enrolled for Elementary (Pre-K to 5) Education.

As a teacher I aspire to be compassionate, understanding, and kind to all of my students, as well as help them to the best of my abilities. I want to ensure each one feels welcomed into my classroom, just like my teachers did for myself. I want each student to feel respected and capable, like my Mom does for me and her patients. One of the most appealing parts of education for me is that not only can I educate students, but be there as another person in their lives to guide and support them through challenges they may face in education. I finally feel that I have made the correct career decision, and I am starting to evolve into a happier version of myself. I am excited to continue learning, and to apply my knowledge in the classroom. As I continue to learn, my teaching identity continues to evolve. I look forward to seeing how I continue to grow, and the type of teacher I will one day become.