

# Have a New Kid by Friday: Teacher's Guide:

How to Change Your Students'  
Attitudes, Behaviors, & Character in  
5 Days

Presentation by Melissa Seal

**I AM SO EXCITED TO GO BACK TO  
SCHOOL AFTER HOLIDAY BREAK!**

**SAID NO TEACHER  
EVER.**

Please don't make me  
go to school tomorrow!

But Honey,  
you're the teacher.



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Kids have a game plan to drive you bonkers. But you don't have to let them call the shots.

- Entitlement
  - They expect everything without working for it because they exist.
  - Schools OWE them.
- It's the constant battles that wear you down, not the big things.
  - Eye rolling, talking back, fussing with others, silent treatment, pouting, shouting out, etc...
  - “You can't make me...!”

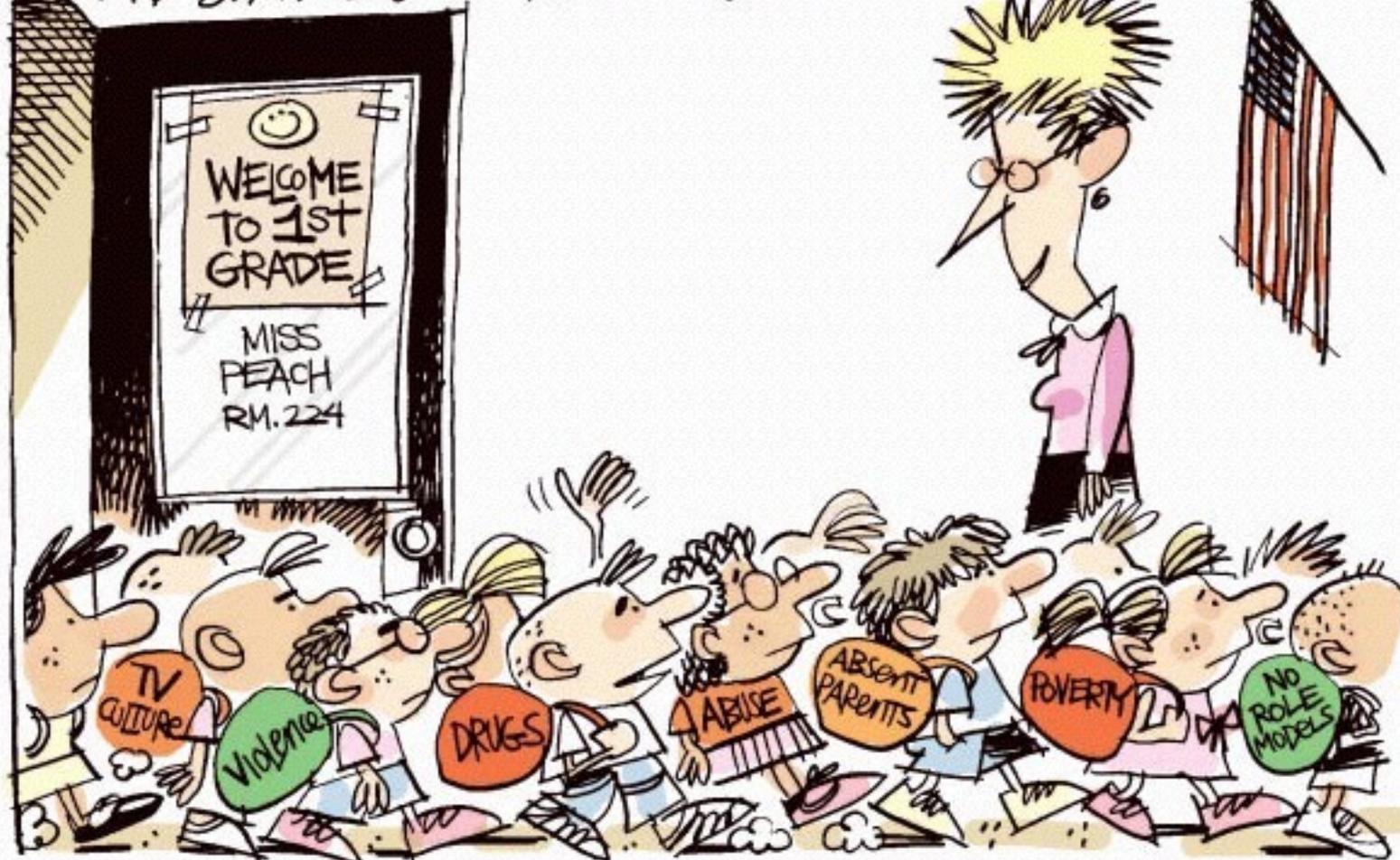


In another universe.

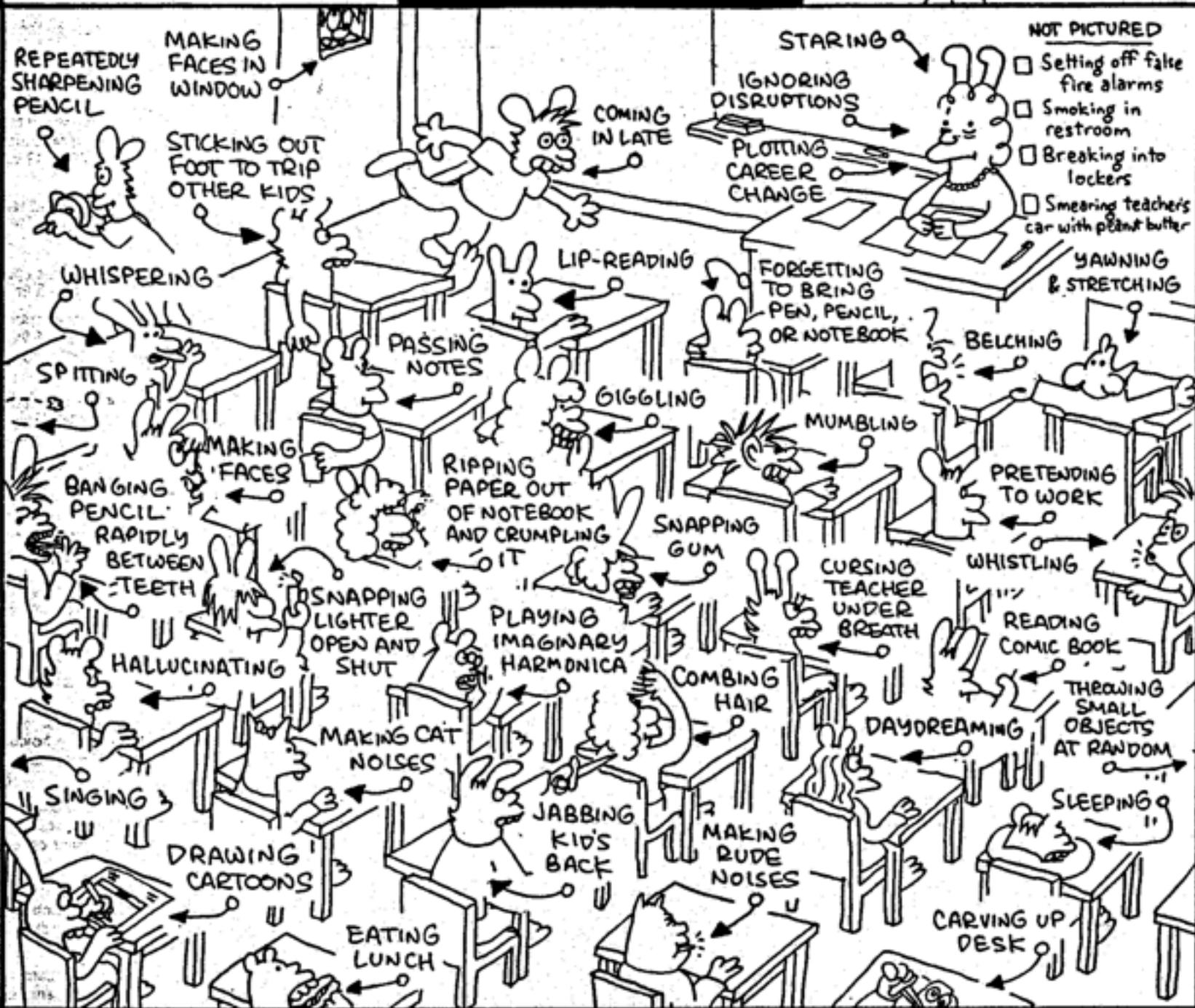


"I'm behaving well. Are you sure you wouldn't like to positively reinforce it?"

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HI! WE'RE EVERY SOCIAL PROBLEM IN AMERICA THAT YOU CAN NAME ROLLED INTO A HERD OF TOO MANY HUMANS FOR ONE MERE MORTAL TO MANAGE... LET ALONE TEACH. WHERE DO YOU WANT US TO SIT?







**MOVING  
OUT?**

**NO, JUST  
A TEACHER  
GOING TO  
WORK.**

*class of kinders on tpt*

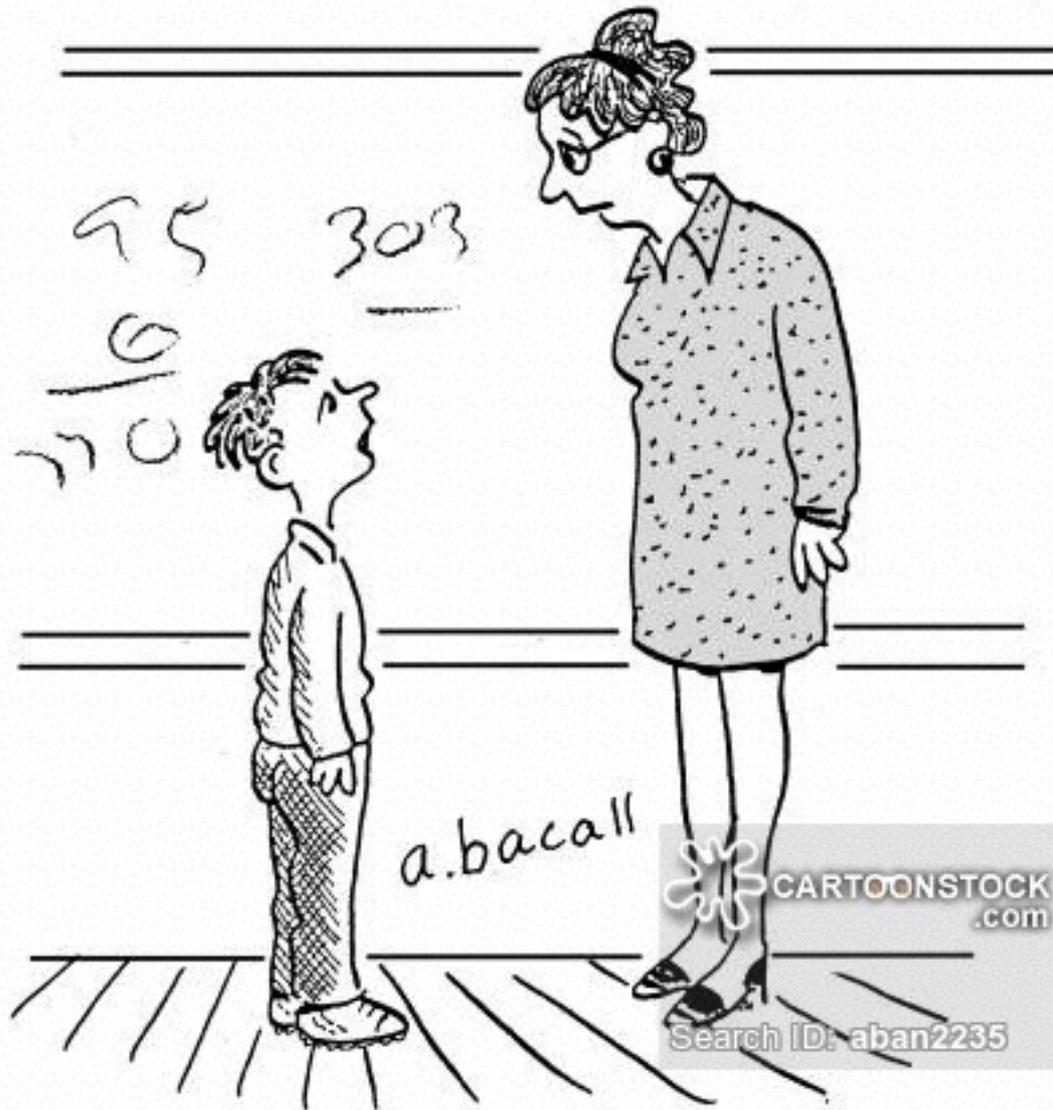


**WHO SAYS  
TEACHING IS STRESSFUL?**

**I'M 39, AND I FEEL GREAT!**

# You have to be strong! No wimps allowed!

- No giving up!
- No backing down!
- No giving in!
- No idle threats!
- Only the courageous!
- Only the strong-willed!
- Only the confident!
- It's so worth it!



**"I know I failed all the tests and never handed in any finished assignments. So what's your point?"**

# Accountability

- Kids have to learn about life
  - Nothing in life is free.
  - Each person is accountable for their actions and words.
  - School families should be based on mutual respect, love, and accountability.
  - There is no entitlement. If you play the entitlement game, you'll create BratZ (with a capital Z).
  - Stick to your “No.”

# Life the Way it's Meant to be

- Philippians 2:3- “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”
- Ecclesiastes 5:19- “When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work- this is a gift of God.”

# Your Unspoken and Unrecognized Job

- Not to create a happy child, but a responsible adult who doesn't think his/her happiness is the only thing that's important in life.
- As a teacher or para, you are to be in healthy authority over your students, so kick the students out of the driver's seat, they are not ready to drive.
- Guide your students to become a healthy and contributing member of society.

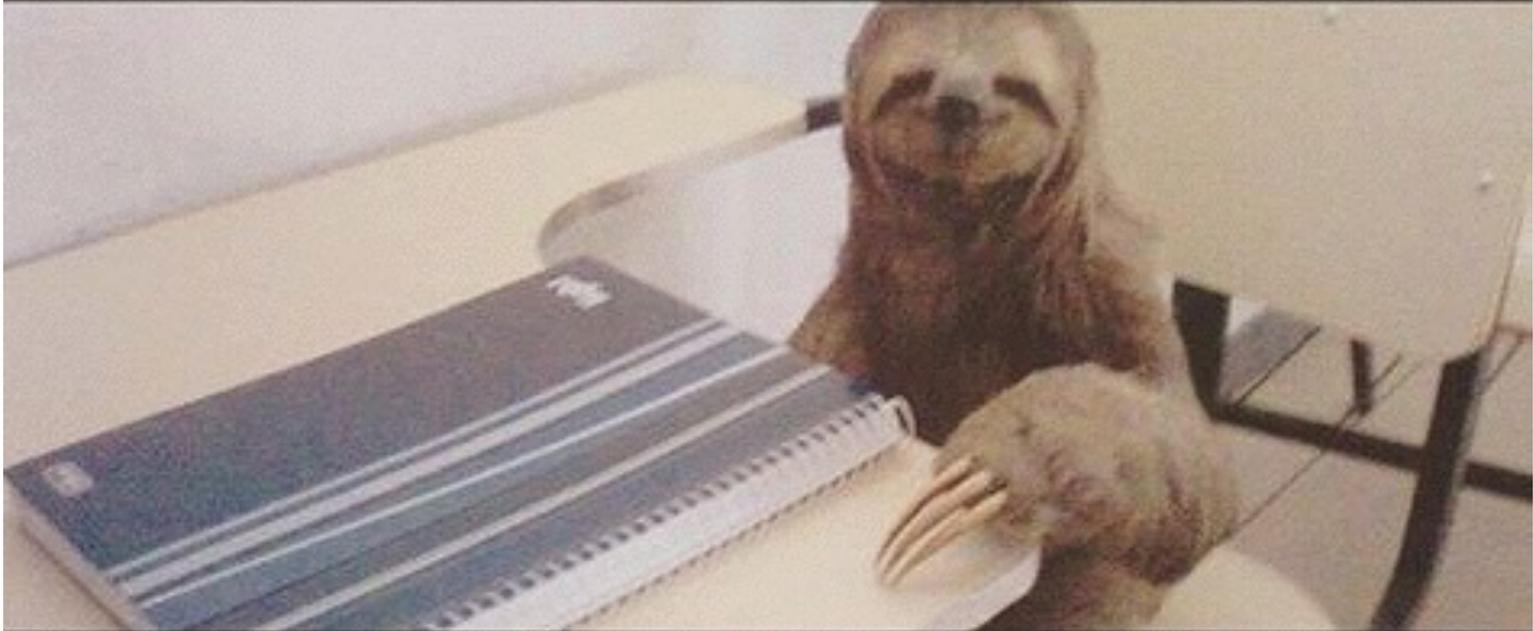
# So, What's the Catch?!

- YOU are the key to changing these child's thinking and actions.
- YOU have to become the educator that you want to be.
- YOU have to stand up and be an educator, not a pushover.
- YOU are the one who has to deal with this.
- This plan WILL NOT work the first time. You WILL have to be consistent.
- This plan IS hard.

# Common Mistakes that Cost You

- Yelling at your students when they are looking for attention.
- Intervening with arguments which don't involve safety.
- Listening to bellyaching over the work they don't want to do.
- Making too many decisions for your students so they can be happy.
- Giving too many choices and accepting excuses so that the child doesn't have to be accountable for actions.
- Letting him/her off the hook or making excuses when they are not responsible.
- Ignoring little and big ways kids are disrespectful to adults.
- Threatening or cajoling when they won't do, or do something they are not supposed to do.
- Letting them manipulate you into feeling guilty or bad for them.
- Spending more time warning and reminding than training.
- Becoming slaves to your students.

**I haven't done anything all semester,**



**but what can I do in the next 5 minutes to bring  
my grade up?**

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"After all, children like your Tommy are our future.  
That's why I'm moving to France."

# My Wishes for this Training

- I care about you and your students.
- I want to see you have healthy relationships with your students.
- I want you to experience a school where everyone loves and respects each other.
  - Your students **DESERVE** that.
  - You **DESERVE** that.
  - Nothing would make me happier to see this happen.

# Motivation and Control: That's why Your Students' Behavior has Everything to do with You

- Kids do what they do because they've gotten away with it.
- Educators tend to be too concerned about being their students liking them and making their students happy.
  - This causes them to miss out on their most important role: to be the educator.
- Educators fall into potholes of letting kids make them feel guilty. They end up blaming themselves instead.
- Spending more time warning and reminding than training.
- **IT ALL COMES DOWN TO WHO YOU ARE LETTING BE IN CHARGE OF YOUR CLASSROOM.**

# Power-Hungry Little Ones

- Kids are growing more powerful because they are masters of manipulation. Don't think they're not manipulating you.
  - All about “me”
  - Held less and less accountable
  - Have fewer responsibilities
  - It is about not what you can give, but what you can get.
  - Fewer children consider others before themselves because they've never been taught to think that way.
  - In the daily trail-and-error game designed to get the best of you, he's/she's motivated to win because then they get what they want.
  - If something works, he'll/she'll try it again, and he'll ramp up the efforts a little each time.



**"It wasn't me jumping up and down and yelling in class. It was the sugar talking."**

# Why Do My Students Do This?

- Dr. Alfred Adler, psychologist, talks about the “purposive nature of the behavior”.
  - Your students misbehave to get attention.
    - If a child can’t get attention in positive ways, he’ll/ she’ll go after negative ways.
    - The child’s logic (the inner voice that tells him who or what he is his entire life) is being formed right now.
    - Children naturally think they only count when people notice or serve them.
      - *I only count when I dominate, control, and win.*

# Good News!

- What we learn, we can unlearn.
- Children are like wet cement- moldable and impressionable, up to a point.
- The earlier you start addressing a child's Attitude, Behavior, and Character, the better.
- The behavior you are seeing is because your student needs your attention.
- No one can replace the role you have as the educator in the lives of your students.
  - You are responsible for the impact you make on these children and can set the stage for future educational experiences.

# Warnings

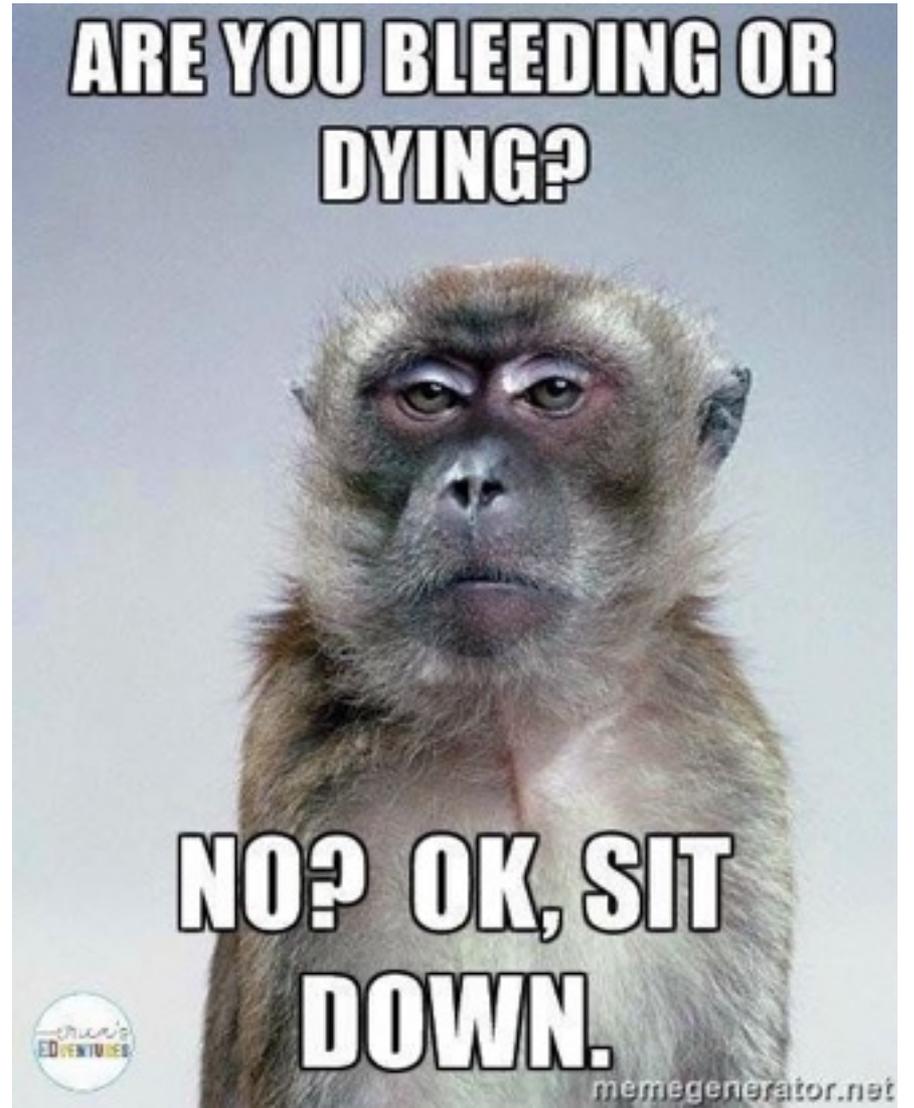
- If you don't pay attention in the right way, your student ups the ante to the next level: revenge.
- You'll never win in a power struggle, so don't go there.
- Use consistency and follow-through to make your point, never waver from the goal.
- Never promise a child anything.
  - Unless nothing EVER goes not as planned in your life (does in mine).

# 3 Principles

- First, take a breath and think through your strategy. Then apply the 3 Principles:
  - Say it once.
    - If you say it more, you're implying that the child is not smart enough to get it the first time.
  - Turn your back.
  - Walk away.
    - Don't worry, the student doesn't want you to go away so he/she won't allow you to go far and may pursue your attention again.
    - He/she wants to do battle with you because he/she wants to win.
    - Once you leave him/her, the fit isn't fun anymore.
    - Winning the battle isn't so important anymore, finding and following the teacher, his safety zone is.

# Get to the Nitty Gritty

- When the behavior or fit subsides:
  - \_\_\_\_\_, do you need some attention today?
  - If you need a hug, all you have to do is say so.
  - Raise your hand and ask me for a hug.
  - You don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ to get it.
  - That kind of behavior is not acceptable.
- You just took the fun out of the behavior by naming the purposive nature of the behavior for the child.
  - The child knows that you know exactly what happened and why he did what he did.
  - You're the one in control, not him.
  - He doesn't have a reason to do it next time.



# Notice

- No argument
- No guilt
- No cajoling
- No yelling
- No ignoring
- No giving in
- No giving up
- No putting his bad mood onto the educator
- No taking it



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**“Will the student making those disruptive sounds stop? Fair warning! I am gathering evidence and I’m wearing a wire.”**

# Want a Student with Character, not one who Is a Character?

- 3 Most Important Things to Educators
  - Attitude
    - The attitude comes out in the behavior.
    - Attitudes are caught not taught, you wear a bad one and they will too. They model their behavior around the things they see YOU say and do.
    - If you sport a *You're gonna do what I tell you to do, or God help you!* attitude, you are asking to butt heads with a strong-willed child.
    - You change and they will.
    - Remember, they've heard your threats before and they don't go anywhere.
    - If they don't do what you want, they can simply choose to do the work on their time.
    - It's not a phase, 100% of the time students know the difference between respect and disrespect, but choose to ignore it. They are testing you; how much are you putting up with?

- Behavior

- Remember that kids WILL say and do the dumbest and most embarrassing things you can imagine.
  - Don't *ask* for misbehavior. Example: the lecture before going into the restroom. You are saying that you expect them to misbehave and they better not. This actually teaches them to make trouble.
    - Simply remind them of the rules in that area of campus.
  - Every child will fail, make mistakes, and embarrass you. Don't hold this over their head forever. Just say it once and move on.
- After a while, words and looks no longer work if there are no consistency, follow-through, and consequences.
  - This can also cause a rip in your relationship, and subsequently the relationships between other teachers.
- Make sure you are not calling molehills mountains.



SO QUIET AND  
WELL BEHAVED!

I TOLD THEM  
THE GLUE STICKS  
WERE LIP BALM.

berry

- Character- it's who you are when no one is looking.
  - Taught by parents/guardians and educators
  - Taught by life
  - You teach character in the little mini lessons you teach when the moment arrives.
    - Good character is reinforced in a natural, positive way.  
Example: discussion about how they helped someone
    - Negative character traits need to be dealt with. Example:  
discussion about pushing another student in the hallway
  - Character is not about being perfect, but about having an inner standard that cares about others more than yourself.
  - A person with character will go to a person they have wronged and offer a real apology along with asking what they can do to make things okay.
  - Character is the foundation for your attitude and behavior. It's not only everything, it's the only thing in the long run.

# 3 Steps for Character Success

## 1. Let reality be the teacher.

- Don't rescue your students from consequences.
- Don't intervene in the situation.
  - Ask the students how they think they should work it out.
- Don't rub their noses in it. Natural consequences are enough most of the time.
- Don't be a bone-digger that digs up a situation from a long time ago.
  - Remember you've done wrong before and have been forgiven.

## 2. Learn to respond rather than react.

- When a doctor prescribes medicine, if you “respond” to the the meds, it's good. If you “react” to the meds, it's bad. Same thing with teaching.
- Stick to your guns without shooting yourself in the foot.
- Instead, say, “Tell me more about that.”

**WHEN YOU JUST START THE LESSON...**



@teacherwayoflife

Oh, heck no

**AND YOU HEAR THE PENCIL SHARPENER GO OFF**

### 3. B Doesn't happen until A is completed.

- If you've asked your student to do something, and it's not done, they don't do fun things until the assignment is completed- no exceptions.
- "You're not going to specials/recess until \_\_\_ is completed." Then turn your back and walk away.
- If your student follows you, don't announce your strategy. It works better if the child has to figure it out for himself.
- Remember that this whole strategy is about you changing your Attitude, Behavior, and Character.
- Attitudes and Behaviors WILL be worse for a while before they get better. Don't flip out, you are on the right track!
- The most important thing is that you use consistent action, not words.
- Don't embarrass the child on purpose, correct the behavior. This keeps the responsibility ball in their court, not yours. No one wins in this situation. Your relationship is hurt.
- Working together on A, B, and C will build up your relationship.

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"I *like* how Bonnie's not stepping on my last nerve."

# Don't Forget to Partner with your Parents

