

Liz Myers
Corrective Reading
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Professional Development Paper

Patricia Polacco

This workshop was very interesting to me. Patricia Polacco spoke to the children at a different level than their parents or teachers. She explained to the students where she came from and how she became the famous writer that she is today. Her stories of her life were captivating and kept the attention of the students. I believe teachers could take a few tips on how to tell a story from Patricia Polacco. She connected her stories to lessons about perseverance, bullying, friendship, and helping others. Patricia Polacco connected with the students on a personal level. She knew what it was like to struggle through school. The majority of teachers do not know what that feels like. Listening to her speak about her success lets teachers know that it is possible to reach every student if they are willing to take the time. Teachers should not give up on any students, no matter what the struggle is.

After listening to Patricia Polacco, the students were split up into groups. My partner and I had a group of five boys. In our groups, we reviewed the book *Chicken Sunday* and discussed the overlying theme of the book. I wish I had a copy of the book to review with. I had to rely on my memory of the book, and I had only read it once. One of the projects the groups did was to make friendship bracelets to follow along with the friendship in the book. I was surprised at how well my group learned to make the bracelets. They knew what the bracelets symbolized. The other project they had to do was to make the coupon books. They had to write

coupons for nice things they would do for certain people. My group did not catch on to this project as fast. They could not think of nice things they could do for people. This made me upset. I did not realize how selfish children could be until now. They were not willing to do what they wrote on their coupons and they made it clear. My group also did not have a good amount of time to complete the coupon books because the bracelets took so long to make. I believe the groups were rushed to complete their projects and they did not get the true meaning behind the projects or the book.

There are many things that I will take with me after this workshop. The one thing that will stick with me forever is that I should never give up on any child. I make the promise that I will do the best I can to reach every student that comes into my classroom. I have always told this to myself before, but Patricia Polacco put things into perspective. A struggling student can be just as successful as any other student. As a teacher, I will encourage every student to be the best that they can be. I will use Patricia Polacco as a role model. One thing that I will take from working with my group, is that I should allow myself time to plan for different projects. During this workshop there was nothing we could do about the allowed time, but it allowed us to see what happens when we do not fully plan our lessons. I believe the students could have gotten more out of the projects if allowed more time.