



How To Change A Student's Life

By Michael Linsin on April 1, 2017

One of the benefits of the SCM approach is that you'll really get to know your students.

You'll have the freedom to observe them without distractions and interruptions.

You'll have the time to listen to them and learn of their hopes and dreams.

You'll have the trust and likability that breaks down walls and frees them to be themselves around you.

It's wonderful, and the basis for a level of [rapport](#) and influence that impacts generations of students.

This isn't something you have to work at.

It comes naturally by following the advice you'll find right here on the website as well as in our books and guides.

Time and freedom, trust and likability. They also form the perfect combination from which flows an ability all great teachers share.

It's an ability that can change lives, sometimes dramatically, and set a student on a new and better and often redemptive course they never would have found on their own.

It's an ability that affected me personally, that I was the beneficiary of.

As a freshman in high school, I was lost and disillusioned. I was a Gordian knot of shyness and fear and in profound need of direction.

And then I met Bill Heyde.

Bill was the high school English teacher I'd written about in three of my books.

He died recently, and I'm just now beginning to process it and the impact he continues to have on my life.

I read an article about him not long ago where he said, "I always have enjoyed finding the students who were good but didn't know they were good and challenge them to push themselves up."

This was me.

Although to this day I can't imagine how – I could barely make eye contact – he told me that I had a unique ability to communicate. And he never let me forget it.

I took a class from him every semester until I graduated, and in those four years, he prepared me for the rest of my life.

He saw something in me no one else was able to see, including myself, and it changed me forever.

His day-after-day example – his kindness, humor, [high-bar expectations](#), and deep respect for students – also informed my future career as a teacher as well as everything we do here at SCM.

So how do you find that *one thing* in your students? How do you find that one thing they can hang on to, develop, and transform into a skill that gives their life direction and purpose?

You don't find it. You notice it.

Exceptional classroom management allows you to build the kind of trusting relationships that reveal who your students are and the unique gifts they can offer the world.

It liberates their abilities lying dormant within, which bubble to the surface and then burst forth in a bright, glowing supernova you can't help but recognize.

So what may be inconceivable to them becomes obvious to you.

There is a lot to this topic, including how to let students know what you see in them in a way that ignites a fire and passion that never goes out.

We'll be sure to cover this and more in future articles. In the meantime, please check out our books. Spend time in our archive. Become an oracle, a seer of infinite potential.