

WHAT TYPE OF TEACHER ARE YOU?

Answer sheet

In Step 1.12 you were asked to read two extracts from the paper 'Beginning teacher curriculum decision making, personal teaching metaphors, and teacher education', which described two teacher's view of education. You were asked to consider what their metaphors might be. See below for the answers:

Teacher 1 described education being husbandry:

"I'm seeing that a good husbandman is able to look at the place he may be looking to farm - he approaches [it], nature, with real respect – he looks at what is going on there before he starts cutting trees and starts ploughing the land. He engages in a conversation [with nature] that is open ended, that requires faith because its ends are unforeseeable. [He realizes] it cannot be shaped toward preconceived ends... My students [are] like the wilderness... 35 bodies gushing out [life]... I'm kind of preparing to sort of hew a place out where something might grow.... a place to find out who[they] are and what [they] are..." [p.242]

Teacher 2 described herself as a butterfly.

She thought of herself as a "butterfly" which at year's end she realized was particularly apt: "I didn't realize. . . what I meant by that [at the time] . . . What I was writing was a lot deeper than I realized... I can see my insecurity there... I was really fragile, and insecure, and I still am, somewhat." [p.246]

What's interesting to note is that the first teacher carried on teaching but the second was considering that it might not be her vocation.