

Teachers, get to know your colleagues from around Malaysia and share views and teaching ideas with them. If you would like to be featured in Getting To Know You, answer these questions and email your photo and answers to schooltimes@nstp.com.my. For every published contribution we'll pay RM40.

TeachEd

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Please introduce yourself.

My name is Radziah Taib, and I am from Masjid Tanah, Malacca. I'm 54 years old.

When did you start your teaching career?

I have been teaching for 30 years. I spent 19 years teaching in primary school and later pursued my degree in TESL at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Where do you teach?

I teach now at SMK Hang Kasturi in Malacca. My previous schools were SK Sg. Lui, SRK Tunku Kurshiah, SK Jempol and SK Ayer Limau, all in Negri Sembilan.

4. What subject(s) do you teach?

My major is English, but I also teach Pendidikan Seni and Pendidikan Jasmani dan Kesihatan (PJK) at times.

5. What do you see as being the challenges in the classroom?

It is challenging to instil in students an interest in the English language, and get them involved in the teaching and learning process and to read.

6. How do you motivate your students?

I use several methods to motivate my students in class. I use songs during teaching, conduct quizzes, do online activities and use CDs from various sources as teaching materials.

7. How do you make sure weak students are able to follow your lessons?

Usually, I simplify the text, guide the students and conduct a group mentor-mentee session to listen to them and help them cope with the lessons.

8. What is your most memorable teaching moment?

The most memorable teaching moment was when a student from the Pendidikan Khas programme was able to list the achievements of Nicol Ann David. Another one occurred when school debate participants and public speakers managed to place as state finalists.

9. What or who inspired you to be a teacher?

I was inspired by the way my History teacher, Miss Ng, taught me during my secondary school in 1972. She made us interested in learning history. Also I get inspired by my own students, when they are keen to learn more from me.

10. What is your daily motivation as a teacher?

My daily motivation is my students' progress and development in the English language and in whatever they do.

11. What is the most valuable lesson you've learnt as a teacher?

Do not underestimate a person's ability. An average student with a pleasant and decent personality can perform well if he is given full support and guidance.

12. What would you consider to be your greatest achievement as a teacher?

I consider my students' development and success to be the greatest achievement for a teacher.

13. If you could wave a wand and change one thing in the education system, what would that be?

Education is not only about producing excellent students but also educating and instilling in them a sense of humanity.

14. What are your thoughts on being a teacher?

A teacher crafts and inspires future generations. But a teacher is unable to determine the outcome and hopes that students will be able to contribute positively to the country.

"A teacher crafts and inspires future generations."

*Radziah Taib, SMK Hang Kasturi,
Malacca Sharon Siban*

