

In 'Lessons of Another Kind', poet Leslie Owen Wilson reflects on the two-way learning process that occurs between teacher and students. Any teacher who expects to be the only vessel of learning in the classroom, doesn't understand that students can often teach us as much as we teach them.

Wilson tells us that a teacher can, in fact, "metamorphose" within a "new scholar's skin", and can become the one who is learning, and not just teaching.

## ***Happy World Teachers' Day to all of the staff!***

### **Lessons of Another Kind**

I came to teach,  
To see what I could find  
Inside my students' deeper selves.  
I came to try and open minds  
Before they were seamed shut.  
I came to channel passages,  
Hoping to connect hearts to heads  
And hands.

I came to entreat,  
To coax ennobled thoughts,  
Ideals, and love of self and others.  
I thought that this must come from  
inside out  
Into the essence of their beings,  
Into relationships,  
As connections to words and deeds,  
And pedagogic styles.

I came to probe,  
And sometimes poke,  
To make them think,  
And laugh  
At small and narrowed views.  
For I wanted them to see,  
With their own eyes,  
Beyond the limitations of closed  
perceptions  
Into the beauty and the pain of others'  
views.

I came to teach,  
But learned instead  
That they had just as much  
To say to me.  
Their lessons were often raw,  
Sometimes unformed and yet complex.  
I came to give and yet was given.  
For through their gifts I saw anew  
That I must learn to guard against  
complacency, conclusions,  
And the allure of too soon ends.

I came to grow,  
Unknowingly  
To shed my false, new scholar's skin  
And metamorphose  
Into to something new  
And strange –  
Something far beyond the shadows of  
my old instructive self.

I came to teach but was changed in  
other ways,  
And now remember that life is still a  
two way street.  
These were lessons  
I needed to commit to memory, again.  
Perhaps it is enough to say, I came to  
teach but learned instead.

**Leslie Owen Wilson**