

Grade on a Test Paper

During her senior year of high school, Lynn became ill with bronchitis and missed two weeks of school. She returned to classes to discover she had nine tests to make up in one week.

When she got to the last test, she drew a total blank. She admitted to her teacher, "I can't do this. I don't know any of those answers."

He went over to her, and looking at her paper said, "You know the answer to that! We just talked about it in class yesterday. You answered a question I asked about that."

In spite of several hints, Lynn just could not remember. She said, "You're just gonna have to give me an F. I can't do it. I feel too bad."

The teacher reached down with his red pencil. As she watched, she was certain he was going to put an F on the paper. Instead, he wrote a big, bold A on top of the page.

"What are you doing?" she asked.



He replied: "If you had been here and you felt good and you'd had time to study, that's what you would have earned. So that's what you are going to get."

Lynn reflected later, "I realized there are people who will give you a break once in a while. It was empowering. It was like saying, 'I know who you are, not just what you do.' That's an amazing gift to give somebody. That's the kind of teacher I want to be."

We should always take into consideration the whole of whom a person is, not just the mistake or blunder he or she may have made most recently.

We do learn from experience. As I heard a man say one day, "A man never wakes up his second baby just to see it smile."

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you (Philippians 4:9).

– Beecher Hunter