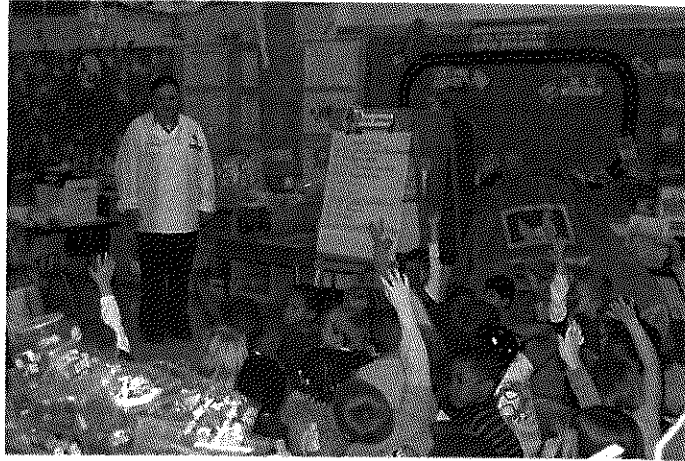


True Life: I'm a Teacher

Michael Stahl

Paired text to
"The Inside Scoop"



When boys and girls go to school, they sit and learn from a person who is very important to each and every one of them. Their teacher does a lot of good things for them. Everybody knows that a teacher helps students learn things like math, science, reading, and writing. What some boys and girls may not understand is that teachers are also getting their students ready to live life as an adult. Teachers help kids to learn to behave the right way when in a large group of people. They also show kids that people must work hard to get what they want. Children probably would not grow up to be responsible people without the help of their teachers. Yet another thing about teachers that youngsters may not even think about is what teachers do outside of the classroom. Teachers actually do a lot of work when they are not in front of their students to make sure the students learn all of the lessons in the best possible way.

Erica Shields is a second grade teacher who works very hard, even when she is not inside the classroom. Her students know her as "Miss Shields." They certainly appreciate all that Miss Shields teaches them, but they probably have no idea what her life is like when she is not in the school building.

"A lot of people, including students, think a teacher only works from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.," Miss Shields says. "That is not correct at all."

On a normal school day, Miss Shields wakes up at 7 a.m., makes herself breakfast, takes a shower, and picks out a nice outfit to wear to work. "It is important to dress the right way when a person teaches," Miss Shields explains. "Teachers should look well-dressed, neat, and clean. They are supposed to set a good example for the kids, and proper clothing expresses that."

Miss Shields leaves her home for school at 8 a.m. to make sure that she is in the building at about 8:35. That is a full 25 minutes before her students arrive and the class session begins. "I have to get there early to make sure I have all of my supplies ready and that the classroom is tidy."

Throughout the school day, Miss Shields teaches a little bit of everything. She gets a break for lunch while her students eat too. On many days, she gets another break while her students go to the gym for physical education or to the library for reading time.

At 3 p.m. she says goodbye to her students and drives back home.

During the late afternoon and early evening, Miss Shields has to correct any submitted classwork, homework, quizzes, or tests the students may have given her during the school day. "Grading all of these papers takes a long time because I have to show all of the students how to do things the right way if they got something wrong," she says. "And that is only about half of what I have to do at home."

Miss Shields also takes time to plan her lesson for the next day of school. "Teachers have to always be prepared," she says. "I never know what my students are going to ask me or in what subject they might need extra help. So, at night, I make sure I feel comfortable with what I am going to teach."

Miss Shields will usually work between two and four extra hours at home after being at school for a little over six hours during the day. There have been some days where she has worked over seven additional hours.

"I do all of that work because I love my students," Miss Shields says. "They need me to be ready for them every day, so I do whatever I have to do to be prepared."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is Miss Shields's job?

- A) Miss Shields is a basketball coach.
- B) Miss Shields is a doctor.
- C) Miss Shields is a teacher.
- D) Miss Shields is a waitress.

2. What does this passage describe?

- A) This passage describes two students in Miss Shields's class.
- B) This passage describes science textbooks.
- C) This passage describes what kids like to do after school.
- D) This passage describes the work of a teacher.

3. Miss Shields works hard.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A) Miss Shields spends hours after the school day ends grading and planning lessons at home.
- B) A lot of people, including students, think a teacher only works six hours a day, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- C) Miss Shields gets a break for lunch and when her students go to the gym for physical education or to the library for reading time.
- D) At 3 p.m. Miss Shields says goodbye to her students and drives back home.

4. Why might some people think that a teacher only works from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.?

- A) Some people understand that teachers help prepare their students for life as an adult by helping them learn how to behave when in a large group.
- B) Some people only see teachers working from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and do not realize that a teacher does a lot of work outside that time.
- C) Some students like math and science more than reading and writing.
- D) Miss Shields believes that teachers should look well-dressed, neat, and clean.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A) a teacher named Miss Shields and the importance of teaching
- B) math, science, reading, and writing
- C) the right way to behave when you are in a large group of people
- D) what proper clothing for the classroom is

6. Read the following sentences: "Miss Shields also takes time to plan her lesson for the next day of school. 'Teachers have to always be **prepared**,' she says."

What does the word **prepared** mean?

- A) angry
- B) afraid
- C) happy
- D) ready

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Miss Shields loves her students, _____ she works hard for them.

- A) but
- B) yet
- C) so
- D) never

8. How do teachers help students grow up to be responsible people?

9. Why does Miss Shields believe that teachers should look well-dressed, neat, and clean?

10. Reread the first paragraph of the passage. Does its description of teachers apply to Miss Shields? Use evidence from the passage to explain why or why not.
