

## Empathy for You and Me

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Mr. Horton was teaching yet another lame character education lesson this afternoon. I did not have a good attitude at all. I was looking at him half asleep. I thought, “Blah, blah, blah.” I changed my attitude after hearing his story. It was about something that he cares deeply about. He told the class a story about the time he went to Haiti. He said that Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. He said that people in Haiti have houses that are poorly built and frequently fall apart. My eyes began to mist as he explained why he used empathy. Empathy is the ability to put yourself in another person’s shoes. It is trying to see the world as they do. He said that the people of Haiti didn’t care much for material possessions. Mr. Horton said that it was his dream that when helping the Haitians rebuild their homes after a recent earthquake in the region they would be given a lasting gift. “What is a lasting gift?” I thought. He said that the lasting gift he gave them was something you couldn’t buy or even touch. I was confused. He said that the people of Haiti needed hope. Mr. Horton clearly knows what empathy is. I guess I do too. I had a crummy attitude in class before this story, but I need to put myself in Mr. Horton’s shoes. His story taught me how to imagine how it makes him feel.