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### **My Inspirational Teacher**

I cannot recall entirely the first day I met Mrs. Hostetler, but I remember the first time I left her classroom. I was in complete awe from just seeing her amiable smile, the efficiency of her teaching, and the remarkable melodies that emanated from her violin. I felt joyful anticipation towards my future years with the teacher and class I'd stepped into.

I had been playing violin for several months before that class, but Mrs. Hostetler enhanced my skills even further. I was no longer a little kid in little concerts. I was part of an *ensemble*. My classmates and I weren't messing around with little jigs anymore. We were making *music*. And Mrs. Hostetler undoubtedly was and is a part of that, because she provides us with songs that push our abilities.

By far, the foremost part of orchestra class is recognizing Mrs. Hostetler's passion for her instrument. Some people play for money, power, or out of boredom, but Mrs. Hostetler unambiguously loves the violin, and she wants to share that love with others. She does not keep her music to herself, but prefers to bring students like me into the world of music. Mrs. Hostetler taught me to share my gifts with others, a moral I've used myself when I share meaningful knowledge with others.

However, not all of my teacher's life is soothing Mozart and Beethoven waking her up each morning. She grew up with several siblings, including a twin, which caused family conflict. Not only that, but Mrs. Hostetler used to have an aversion towards school, only enjoying art and music class, yet she still returned to school to work. And now, she has a toddler at home to care for along with dozens of orchestra students. However, Mrs. Hostetler never gave up on the violin throughout these challenges, showing her strength. She fights through the strenuous times and uses her music as a solace to her, instead of a burden. This passion has brought her to a place today where she can teach others to grow their passions. Mrs. Hostetler has taught me to never give up on my dreams, a message I have kept with me when I felt as if I had no time for the violin anymore.

Not only that, my teacher also has an exceptional personality. She shares stories with her classes, plays laborious pieces from her favorite composers for us, and is always a person we can rely on to say yes. She's witty and engaging and turns her passion for music into a passion for teaching. I wouldn't be anywhere near where I am today without Mrs. Hostetler.

Mrs. Hostetler taught me that even if the key is not right, or the fingering is too low, or all the bow hairs are gone, your passions will keep you going. And once you get over the afflictions, sharing that passion with others brings them along too. Thank you, Mrs. Hostetler, for inspiring me to find my passion.