



Mr Taylor and his Literacy Mandate

Read this scenario then answer the questions below, with a colleague

Zion Valley School is described as a successful institution. For the last ten years the school captured the top award for the National Reading Competition. The school's Literacy Resource Teacher, Mr Taylor, was instrumental in the school's success. He was asked to share his literacy mandate. This is what he had to say.

For me, a mandate is a very essential thing to have. It is a plan or a document that states the goals and objectives that I want to achieve and how I will achieve them. It guides me in my planning and teaching. My literacy mandate is that all children in my school should be literate, that is, they should be able to read and write and express their thoughts orally so that others can understand. I expect to see this achievement by the time the children reach Grade 4.

The success that my school enjoys comes from hard work by the teachers and students. Let me share with you what we do to become successful. From Day One I sit down with the teachers, the School Board members, the parents, interested community members and even people from the Ministry of Education and Youth and we plan our literacy programme. I tell you, we all work together as a family. Parents and business people give us books, their time and moral support. As for the teachers, they are so dedicated. They give extra time to the students, they give individual attention to them, they use interesting and creative ways to instruct their students and they plan together. A wonderful set of workers.

The principal and I make the teachers and students feel good about their effort. We praise and encourage them to work as a team and to share their expertise with each other in the school and surrounding schools. I conduct many workshops with them and share effective strategies through demonstration lessons. You know, many of the teachers have great pedagogical ideas and I always encourage them to share with us. I value their knowledge and expertise.



The principal and God Parents of the school try to provide many resources like computers, charts, books and even benches and desks. You might think that all is rosy at Zion Valley but believe me we have many challenges- very little money to buy needed material, some parents do not support our programme, we do not have a set literacy room, the classes are large and some children show little or no interest in their school work but we have big hearts and we love what we do. We believe that every child can learn and every one must learn and so we find creative ways to overcome the challenges. We are motivators, entrepreneurs, creative thinkers and persistent workers.

As we teach we assess our students and our own performances. We use exciting media like reflective journals, portfolio, student retellings and students' creative writings.

Questions

1. Explain what is a mandate

2. State the purpose of a mandate

3. What is Mr. Taylor's definition of literacy?



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4. What do you think Mr Taylor sees as his role as literacy Resource Teacher (LRT)?

5. What do you think are some of the objectives he wants to achieve as a LRT?

6. List the support Mr. Taylor received in order to achieve his objectives.

7. Name some of the challenges he faced.

8. How do you think he overcame the challenges?

9. How did he assess the success of his mandate?

10. Do you consider Mr. Taylor to be an effective Literacy Resource Teacher ? If yes, what makes him a successful LRT? If no, what makes him ineffective?



My Literacy Mandate

Task:

- I. Share with a colleague your definition of literacy
- II. Share with the larger group your definition of literacy
- III. Compare your definition with that of the Ministry of Education and Youth
- IV. On the form provided, fill in the following information
- V. Share your mandate with the larger group

1. What is your definition of literacy?

2. How do you think literacy is acquired? _____

3. What do you consider to be your main role as literacy resource teacher?

4. List the main objectives you would want to achieve as a Literacy Resource Teacher

a) At the class level:

b) At the school level:



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c) At the community level:

5. How do you plan to achieve your objectives?

a) At the class level:

b) At the school level:

c) At the community level:

6. What support would you need to achieve your objectives?

a) At the class level:

b) At the school level:

c) At the community level

d) At the Ministry level:



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7. What are the challenges you foresee?

8. How do you plan to overcome these challenges?

9. How will you evaluate the success of your mandate?
