A Personal Narrative Story: The Teacher Who made me Dream Again

It is undeniable that teachers are respected figures in our community because of the millions of young people they help in shaping their careers. Yet many do not realize their impact on students since they often consider that part of their profession. An overwhelming majority of teachers want their students to succeed. I appreciate their role in shaping my academic life thus far. However, no one fits the description of a great teacher more than my high school science teacher, Raphael Jacques, because he helped me fit into the chaotic high school life and broadened my perspective about academics and life in general.

One of the greatest things I appreciate about meeting Mr. Jacques is that he helped me adjust to the new harsh life in high school. I must report from the onset that I am a shy person. I learned this from Mr. Jacques and other people I often interacted with in social settings. So, my first day in high school was stressful because I appeared lost. I had come from a rural community, and here I was, meeting new students in boarding school in a climate I was never used to at all. Although the first day progressed reasonably well, the ensuing months were quite troublesome. I often struggled with anxiety, and my grades were poor in the first year despite doing well in primary school. I felt undue pressure to prove something in my class, yet it could not happen. One day, in what appeared like a miracle, Mr. Jacques approached me off-class session and requested that I share with him any struggles I could be going through because he had noticed the situation several times. I was surprised that somebody had been ‘watching me.
Yet I was honest and poured my heart out. To my relief, Mr. Jacques promised to walk with me through the journey of high school life as his child, which made me learn to cope with the environment of rejection and competition from all fronts. With time, my anxiety dissipated, and I began doing well in classwork, an outcome I am indebted to him immensely.

More importantly, Mr. Jacques broadened my perspective of life by demonstrating that life is not all about books but exploring every opportunity that comes your way. During my first year, I often made the mistake of dedicating much of my time to reading. This is because I loved studying hard. The pressure often rose when I remembered my parents’ goodbye words on my departure to school that it was through dedicating most of my time to books that I would become valuable to the economy. While he appreciated my reading culture and commitment to advancing my career, Mr. Jacques always reminded me whenever we met that there is a lot of value in life which can be explored apart from books. He notably persuaded me to get the mentality off my head and explore sports. I became an active volleyball player on the school team and created great friends as a result. I stopped worrying about competition. I became a member of an art club. All of a sudden, I found life in high school quite rewarding from almost all corners, thanks to Mr. Jacques. He managed all this by showing me that I am uniquely endowed and, therefore, run my own race.

Overall, when I reminisce about high school life, I am satisfied with the knowledge and life skills that I acquired. I entered high school like a scared chicken but left my head held high with confidence and optimism about the future. I am persuaded that this has been possible because of Mr. Jacques, who helped me adapt to high school life and explore more than just books. I heeded, and I am deeply grateful.