

A Relationship I Cherish

I looked through my inbox, quickly glanced through my emails, and came to an abrupt stop. I was astonished to find my elementary teacher, Ms. Bernardo, in my Gmail inbox. I was already in 7th grade. Although years have passed since the last time I saw her, the core memory of her still exists in my head. I read, "Hello Jacey! Are you causing trouble again there? You will have a ton of strikes!!!! How are you?" I smiled with a hint of nostalgia for the beautiful memories we created in the past. This email was what brought us together once again in middle school, and I was and still am beyond grateful for her , for taking initiative both times. Our story started all the way back in 5th grade.

I stood outside my 5th-grade teacher's classroom, nervously, contemplating whether I should walk in, the thought of speaking to an adult frightened me. This was one of the countless times where I backed down, afraid of the inability to strike up a conversation with her. I failed again. Luckily, an opportunity was brought to me through the strike system, where if students received no strikes over the span of a week then they would have the opportunity to eat with the teacher which was for me, Ms Bernardo. Those lunch days were where our relationship slowly began to develop and continued to develop throughout that year. I went from being a "shy" and nervous kid on the first lunch day to being able to freely express myself and unafraid to share my opinions.

Writing was never my strong suit and I was never confident in it. Ms. Bernardo was able to grasp that through the writing assignments that I've completed. There would be times when others were completing "Achieve 3000", and Ms. Bernardo would tweak my writing methods to make my writing stronger. She motivated me to write with my feelings and personality rather than write to impress. Her words still stick with me to this day and with her encouragement, I was able to improve drastically with my writing. I still reminisce about the little interactions that we had. I love the constant jokes that she pulls on me for my laughs. One morning during the morning

announcements, I was announced 3rd place for my writing and received prizes. I was puzzled by what the writing contest was and how my writing was even entered in the first place. It was Ms. Bernardo who entered my piece of writing, and this little award tremendously boosted my confidence in writing. I'm grateful for her support continuously and love how she's always there to support me both through elementary and middle school.

Our bonds lasted through middle school. Although we were unable to have physical interactions, our digital interactions hold a place in my heart. We would have conversations with each other through email or Google Classroom and she was always supportive of me. She was always glad to offer help. Encouraging me to excel in middle school and in high school. I would always be there for her too, both thankful and grateful for how well she taught me, and want her to recognize her efforts in improving the shy, timid, hesitant part of me. I am confident in our adult and teen relationship as I believe that whenever I need advice, I can still go to her. Even though, now, I am in high school and our interactions have decreased, I strongly believe that I am still able to go to her for support and guidance. A supportive relationship between an adult and a teen is one that can ensure that either side is willing to offer help and provide support when needed.

In my opinion, a supportive relationship between an adult and a teen can be difficult to develop due to generation gaps which leads to disagreements, misunderstanding, and lack of communication. However, generation gaps should be attempted to be overcome for a supportive relationship to develop between an adult and a teen. It is essential to put yourself in the other person's shoes. This allows you to understand why the other person thinks or does what they do whether it's with parents, teens, or any influential members. The supportive relationship between Ms. Bernardo and I developed was, in my opinion, because she was able to put herself in my shoes and figure out how she, as an adult and teacher, could support me and I opened up to her support and help which eventually led to the development of this healthy relationship between us, as a teen and an adult.