

Mr. Robson's Personal Heroes

My heroes:

Name:	Traits:	Actions:
Mr. O	Kind, generous, funny, helpful, selfless, understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- made school fun & interesting by playing games, singing, having contests, etc.- helped me with work before & after school- talked to me about problems on his own time, whenever I needed help- taught me a lot of things outside of school like games, music, skiing, etc.
Marc	Funny, interesting, hard-working, generous, helpful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- took me fun places- played sports & games with me- took me to things like concerts & hockey games, etc- made me feel like a member of his family
Mom	Totally selfless, extremely generous, cares about everyone, would do anything to help anyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- provides a fantastic role model- Great listener- helps me with stuff whenever she can- buys me stuff I need just to be nice- gives me rides when I need them- always willing to drop what she's doing and help me if I need help or need to talk or whatever

I'd like to tell you about one of my biggest heroes in life, a man known simply as Mr. O. He truly made a difference in my life, and changed my direction for the better. I can honestly say that my life would have turned out very differently if I hadn't met him when I did. I am a much more secure, happy, and productive person because of lessons he taught me. I also learned the importance of being generous and kind, and trying to make meaningful connections with people.

Mr. O (short for Oike) was a teacher at Westgrove Elementary School near where I grew up. He taught there for more than 30 years. He usually taught grade 5 and/or 6. He is very musical and athletic. He was always bringing in music to listen to, or playing his guitar in class. We would have music trivia contests and write songs about things we were studying in class and do all kinds of fun and unusual activities. He was also very active with running & skiing in particular. He ran the school's cross country running club and used to take us running all kinds of places, and he had a ski club where we could go to Assiniboine Park or places like that and cross country ski.

I met Mr. O when I was in elementary school. I was in his class in grades 5 and 6. At that time in my life, I was having a really hard time. My parents were divorced and my mom was really sick, so I was never sure what was going to happen to me. I didn't know if my mom would live or die, and I didn't like the thought of going to live with my father at all.

Probably because I was so worried about her and our future, I didn't have many friends and probably wasn't doing well in school either. I wasn't really happy about anything, and didn't have a good outlook on life.

When I came into his class, I didn't like school that much, but it only took me a short time to find out how much fun it could really be. In his class, we had to be quiet and work hard, but when we were good, we got to have a lot of fun. We were always playing games, singing songs, going outside, learning silly rhymes & stuff, and just generally having a great time. There were lots of rules that we had to follow, and sometimes we thought he was being mean, but I now understand how important it was to learn discipline and responsibility.

Mr. O was more than just a great classroom teacher; he would spend a lot of time with me before & after school regularly. We would go to the school gym and play basketball or hockey, or we would just sit and work on stuff or talk. He must have spent lots of hours of his own time just to help me, and he truly did. After my parents divorced, I didn't see my father much, and even when my parents were together, we were never close at all. I guess that left me looking for a father figure, or at least some kind of male role model, and I was extremely lucky to find such an amazing one at such a critical point in my life.

Mr. O is my hero because he was so kind and generous and thoughtful. He really didn't have to do all of the things for me (or others) that he did, but he did it because he cared. He cared enough to make school really fun and interesting. We lived in a poor neighbourhood where things weren't always fun and our future didn't always look bright, but he always made us feel special and made us feel like we could do absolutely anything we wanted to with our lives. All of these things make Mr. O my hero, because he always put the needs of his students ahead of himself, and changed so many lives.