

HOW TO TELL IF YOU'RE A REAL TEACHER

Real teachers grade papers in the car, during commercials, in faculty meetings, in the bathroom, and (at the end of the six weeks) have been seen grading in church.

Real teachers cheer when they hear April 1 does not fall on a school day.

Real teachers clutch a pencil while thinking and make notes in the margins of books.

Real teachers never sit down without first checking the seat of the chair.

Real teachers have disjointed necks from writing on boards without turning their backs on the class.

Real teachers are written up in medical journals for size and elasticity of kidneys and bladders.

Real teachers have been timed gulping down a full lunch in 2 minutes, 18 seconds. Master teachers can eat faster than that.

Real teachers can predict exactly which parents will show up at Open House.

Real teachers volunteer for hall duty on days faculty meetings are scheduled.

Real teachers can "sense" gum.

Real teachers are solely responsible for the destruction of the rain forest.

Real teachers have never heard an original excuse.

Real teachers will eat anything that is put in the workroom/teacher's lounge.

Real teachers never plan discussions for first period or co-operative groups for 7th during an evaluation.

Real teachers know secretaries and custodians run the school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BATTLE SCARS

You know you teach middle school if you empty your pockets at night and find:

1. two used hall passes
2. one unused bus pass
3. a pencil stub
4. no money (you spent your change in the faculty room candy stash)
5. a note with a drawing of satin and two extra words that needed deleting

Your relatives refuse to attend one of your parties if "it's going to be mostly teachers" because they all talk shop

You keep trying those techniques that were recommended by experts during the latest pendulum swing

You walk the halls of your building and unconsciously pick up litter

You are irritated by adults who chew gum in public

You plan your seating chart so that the short kids can't hide behind bigger ones

You have seen firsthand what gum wrappers and pennies can do to a floppy disk drive

You write your name conspicuously on all personal objects, including your car keys, your masking tape, your textbook, and your chair.

You have classroom rules about where people may put their feet

You know what the ventilation fan in your room sounds like when whirling small objects, usually folded paper or wrappers