



A magic moment

People

From the moment I was asked about magic moments from school I am immediately drawn to images of certain teachers and places in my childhood. They have all shaped, given and helped me along my journey which at the time I never really understood.

The first I recall is Mrs Tomlinson, I must be about 5 or 6 and in Primary school. The classroom was separate to the main building and in an old army type hut which had windows down both sides. It is story time my favourite part of the day and I am sitting on a dark maroon carpet watching and waiting with excitement. Mrs Tomlinson's stories are always fun, why because she has lots of friends with her. Out of her wicker basket she brings a large dog glove puppet and he is telling the story today.

Thinking back now Mrs Tomlinson was very talented and creative using many different voices and characters in the story telling and I remember it immediately whisking me off to another imaginary world. Here was my first creative teacher

Next is Mr Jefferies my English teacher. We had moved from London to Dorset and I was suddenly in a school that had more rules, exams and academic beliefs – that's another story.

I am just about to go into Yr10 just coming up to 14 years and I have been put in his English Literature class. We have to study Shakespeare and I am nervous and unsure about being able to understand any of it. Mr Jefferies has recognised something in me and encourages and gives praise for the work I do. His style of us not just reading all the books we covered but acting them out taking different characters building a profile of the characters built my imagination and love of books. I remember at parents evening him telling my parents I must be one of the few people who knew 'Twelfth Night' backwards! I still love the play now and can quote a variety of passages.

Both bought a creative engaging process to learning that I carry today and influence how I work with young people, I am so glad I met them.