

WHAT TEACHERS MAKE

A POEM BY
TAYLOR MALI
ART BY ZEN PENCILS



HE SAYS THE PROBLEM WITH TEACHERS IS:

WHAT'S A KID GOING TO LEARN...

...FROM SOMEONE WHO DECIDED HIS BEST OPTION IN LIFE ...



...WAS TO BECOME A **TEACHER?**

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA



HE REMINDS THE OTHER DINNER GUESTS THAT IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT TEACHERS:

THOSE WHO CAN, **DO.**

THOSE WHO CAN'T, **TEACH.**





I DECIDE TO BITE MY TONGUE INSTEAD OF HIS.

AND RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO REMIND THE DINNER GUESTS THAT IT'S ALSO TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT **LAWYERS**.

BECAUSE WE'RE EATING, AFTER ALL, AND THIS IS **POLITE** CONVERSATION.



I MEAN, YOU'RE A TEACHER, TAYLOR.



BE HONEST.



WHAT DO YOU MAKE?

AND I WISH HE HADN'T
DONE THAT - ASKED ME TO
BE HONEST.



BECAUSE, YOU SEE, I HAVE THIS POLICY ABOUT
HONESTY AND ASS-KICKING: IF YOU ASK FOR IT,
THEN I HAVE TO LET YOU HAVE IT.

YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT I MAKE?



I MAKE KIDS
WORK HARDER
THAN THEY EVER
THOUGHT THEY
COULD.



I CAN MAKE A C+ FEEL LIKE A CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR.



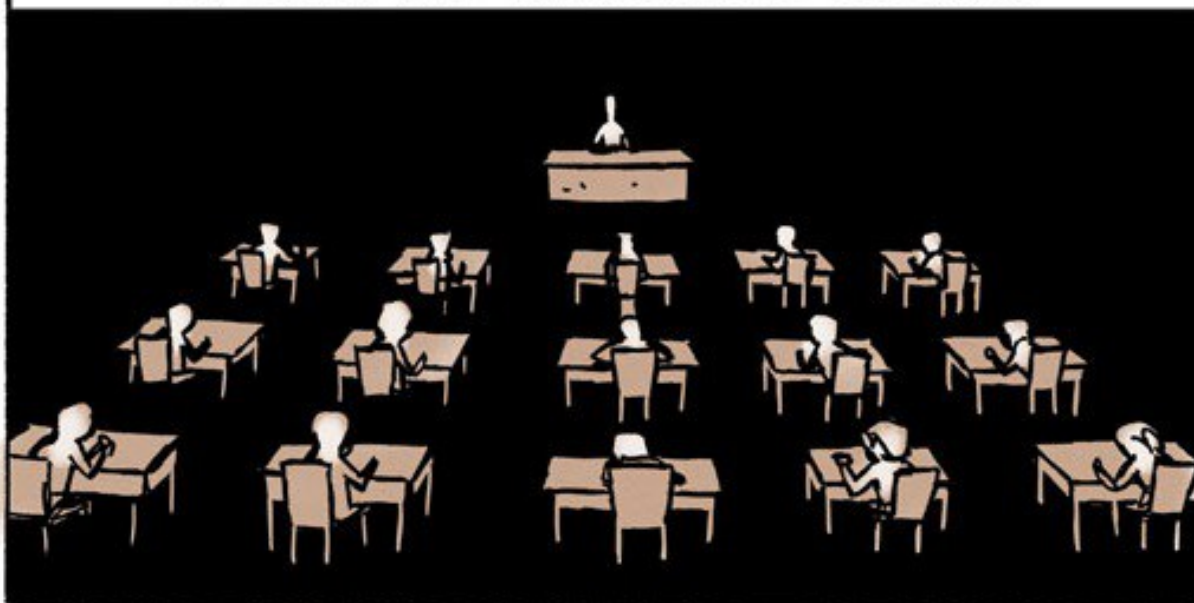
AND AN A- FEEL LIKE A SLAP IN THE FACE.



HOW DARE YOU WASTE MY TIME WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN YOUR VERY BEST.



I MAKE KIDS SIT THROUGH FORTY MINUTES OF STUDY HALL IN *ABSOLUTE SILENCE*.




NO, YOU MAY NOT WORK IN GROUPS.



NO, YOU MAY NOT ASK A QUESTION.






WHY WON'T I
LET YOU GO TO
THE BATHROOM?




BECAUSE
YOU'RE
BORED.



AND YOU DON'T
REALLY HAVE TO GO
TO THE BATHROOM,
DO YOU?

I MAKE PARENTS TREMBLE
IN FEAR WHEN I CALL HOME.

RING!
RING!



HI. THIS IS MR MALI.
I HOPE I HAVEN'T CALLED
AT A BAD TIME.

I JUST
WANTED TO
TALK TO
YOU ABOUT
SOMETHING
YOUR SON
SAID
TODAY.



**YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
I MAKE?**



**I MAKE
KIDS
WONDER.**



**I MAKE
THEM
QUESTION.**

**I MAKE THEM
CRITICIZE.**



**I MAKE THEM
APOLOGIZE AND
MEAN IT.**



**I MAKE THEM
WRITE.**



**I MAKE THEM
READ, READ,
READ.**



I MAKE THEM SPELL...

DEFINITELY BEAUTIFUL DEFINITELY BEAUTIFUL

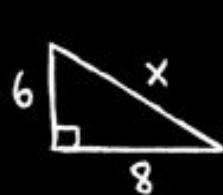
DEF·I·NITE·LY

B·E·A·UTIFUL

...OVER AND OVER AND
OVER AGAIN UNTIL THEY
WILL **NEVER** MISSPELL
EITHER ONE OF THOSE
WORDS AGAIN.



I MAKE THEM **SHOW**
ALL THEIR WORK IN
MATH AND **HIDE** IT ON
THEIR FINAL DRAFTS
IN ENGLISH.



$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\ 6^2 + 8^2 &= x^2 \\ 36 + 64 &= x^2 \\ 100 &= x^2 \\ \sqrt{100} &= \sqrt{x^2} \\ x &= 10 \end{aligned}$$



I MAKE
THEM
UNDERSTAND
THAT IF
YOU'VE GOT
THIS...

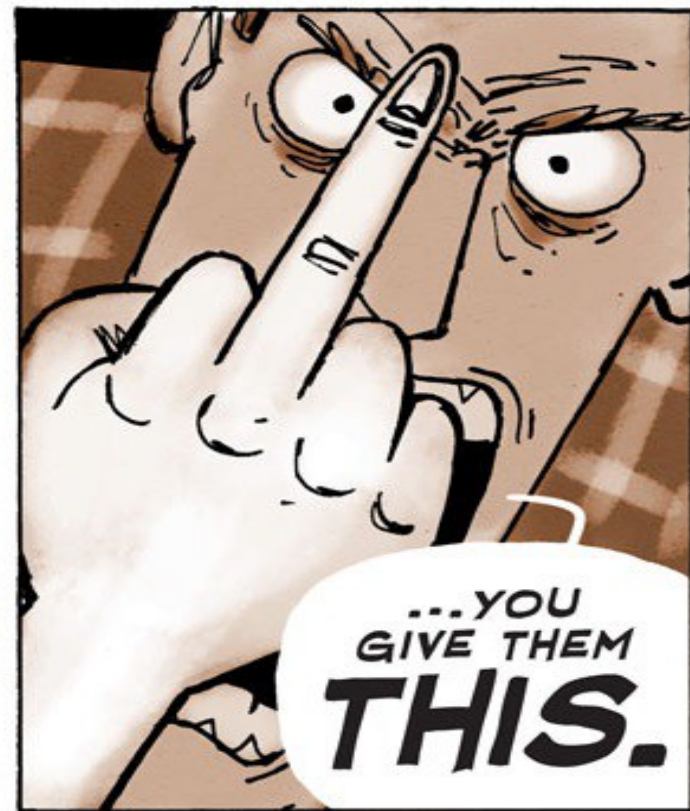


...THEN
YOU FOLLOW
THIS.



AND IF SOMEONE
EVER

TRIES TO
JUDGE YOU
BY WHAT YOU
MAKE...



...YOU
GIVE THEM
THIS.

HERE, LET ME BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU,
SO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY IS TRUE.



TEACHERS
MAKE A
GODDAMN
DIFFERENCE.



NOW
WHAT ABOUT
YOU?

Aungthan