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Lesson 1.2A Reflection

Culturally Responsive Teaching

Many characteristics make up a culturally responsive teacher. They have a strong knowledge base about cultural diversity, high expectations for all their students, adaptive teaching strategies to their students’ learning styles, and the use of multicultural instructional examples (just to name a few). I love the analogy used in the video when it references a tree. The roots being the rich, wealth of knowledge of student’s communities. The trunk being the culturally responsive teacher, one who prioritizes student growth by creating an affirming environment and teaching students how to solve real world problems. The leaves represent each of the various components of the teacher and their pedagogy, or methods of teaching.

I knew teachers back when I was in grade school who would treat students differently based on their color. I still see bias tendencies in the classroom today. Compared to teachers who are culturally responsive in their teaching methods, I can certainly see the ones who are biased are not as affective in their teaching as the ones who are respectful of cultural norms and embrace all students equally.

Some adaptive classroom activities could be using visuals and peer support systems to help students who may have an English language barrier. Another would be holding high expectations for all students, regardless of their background. Also, the structure of the classroom plays an important part. Displaying artwork, books, or artifacts that a students has contributed to allows the rest of the class to reflect on that and gives a sense of belonging.