

The First Year

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My first year of teaching is a melting cone. My tongue, frantically catching the streams of crème falling to my hand. It's a muscle wrenching, knee throbbing dead sprint, among those who jog effortlessly. It's jokes in the hallway like: "Man my kids were awful today." Or "My first hour is a disaster." A laugh that goes dry in my mouth and turns into a lump I fight like hell to keep down. It's understanding nods and grins with promising advice. It's a computer with emails that I know are important but can't understand. It's nine IEPs in one class. It's guilt. It's guilt. It's the five seconds I count in my head before I speak to a disrespectful student. It's the lunch break I use to prepare for the next class. My first year of teaching is a melting cone. Falling apart in my hands, sticking to my clothes. A promise of pleasure and happiness. A puddle on the ground. Lungs burning, legs wailing, yet so far behind. My first year of teaching, a wave of panic, a sticky mess, a ruined shirt, a tear on my keyboard, a cacophony of CHAMPS, demerit threats, ambiguous e-mails, a thud on the window. Suddenly our eyes dart to the bird who smacked into the glass. The CHAMPS collapse. Students erupt into bellowing howls. Uncontrollable belly shaking laughter. Their smiles seep into my skin, infecting my composure. My tight lips break into a smile. I embrace the moment, the cone, the mess, the crème as I let my class fall apart. We watch as the dazed bird gathers herself, whips her head back and forth and with two flaps, soars smoothly into the purple sky.

Author Biography

Tabetha Davis is a seventh grade Language Arts teacher that works daily to empower students through different avenues of literature. Tabetha believes that every student has valuable and unique thoughts to share and works to help them learn how to express those thoughts effectively. Tabetha is a graduate of Wichita State University with a degree in Secondary English Education. She recently started her career in a magnet school within the Wichita School District. She is currently the school's student council sponsor where she encourages students to take on leadership roles in their daily lives. In her spare time Tabetha enjoys experimenting with poetry and creative writing. She can be reached at Tmlevydavis@gmail.com.