

Comprehension

Check the answer that completes each sentence correctly.

1. Jaime Escalante was born in
_____ a. Bolivia.
_____ b. California.
2. Escalante couldn't teach in the United States because he
_____ a. didn't know how to teach.
_____ b. didn't have a teaching certificate.
3. Escalante's students at Garfield were mainly
_____ a. from low-income Hispanic neighborhoods.
_____ b. from rich families.
4. When Escalante's students took the AP calculus test, they all
_____ a. cheated.
_____ b. passed.
5. Escalante said that all students need
_____ a. mathematics.
_____ b. *ganas*.
6. *Stand and Deliver* is
_____ a. a movie about Escalante.
_____ b. a book written by Escalante.
7. After Escalante retired, he
_____ a. made a TV show on PBS.
_____ b. went back to Bolivia to live.

Making Inferences

Read each statement or question. What do you think that Jaime Escalante would say? Check your answer.

1. All children can succeed in school.
____ a. Yes. Poor children can learn as well as rich children.
____ b. No. Rich children will usually do better.
2. Teachers can't help students who don't want to learn.
____ a. I agree. Some students just don't want to learn.
____ b. I disagree. Teachers must find ways to motivate them.
3. Why is teaching a good job?
____ a. Teachers are paid well.
____ b. Teachers build the future through their students.
4. Why should we study math? Only a few jobs use it.
____ a. You should study math only if you like it.
____ b. Learning math can help you learn to succeed.

Vocabulary

Look at these words from the reading. Put a check next to words that you know. Underline words that you don't know yet. Find the words in the reading. Try to guess their meanings.

certificate

education

motivate

challenged

mathematics

Fill in each blank. Use words from the box.

1. The _____ showed that Escalante was trained to teach.
2. Escalante _____ his students and made them work.
3. When you study _____, you learn how to use numbers.
4. You can get a good _____ at many colleges.
5. Escalante wanted to _____ his students.

Reading a Chart

Charts show information in rows and columns. This chart lists information about teachers in the National Teachers Hall of Fame. It tells about the five who were chosen in 1999.

National Teachers Hall of Fame for 1999

Teacher	Subjects Taught	Home	Years Teaching
Jaime Escalante	mathematics	Granite Bay, California	33 years
Dorothy Kittaka	music	Fort Wayne, Indiana	28 years
Debra Peppers	English, speech, debate, theater	St. Louis, Missouri	25 years
Ronald Poplau	sociology and community service	Shawnee Mission, Kansas	36 years
Vicki Roscoe	curriculum resource teacher	Orlando, Florida	20 years

Choose the answer that completes each sentence correctly.
Write it in the blank. Use information from the chart.

1. _____ taught the longest.
Jaime Escalante/Ronald Poplau
2. Dorothy Kittaka taught _____.
mathematics/music
3. Vicki Roscoe taught for _____.
20 years/25 years
4. _____ taught English.
Vicki Roscoe/Debra Peppers
5. Ronald Poplau lived in _____.
Florida/Kansas

Ann Plato was a teacher in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1841, she said, "A good education is another name for happiness."²

What did she mean? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?

Connecting Today and Yesterday

Escalante chose to teach in the toughest neighborhoods. He helped his students succeed. Do you think that Escalante would still succeed in tough schools today? Why or why not?

Group Activity

Think about your best teachers. List your answers to these questions:

- Why did you like them?
- How did they help you learn?
- How did they keep you interested?
- Why were they so good?

Talk about your answers in your group.

Class Discussion

1. Escalante taught mathematics. Do you think that his way of teaching is useful for other subjects? Explain.
2. Escalante used different ways to motivate students. Sometimes he scolded. He made jokes and played games. He challenged students. Are these good ways of teaching? Explain.

Reflections

1. Can you use anything from Jaime Escalante's story in your own life? Explain.
2. How can you learn more about Jaime Escalante?

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