

South Lewis “Tip of the Month”

POWERFUL Instruction

Consider this quote from Regenia Rawlinson, author of *A Mind Shaped By Poverty: Ten Things Educators Should Know*:

“I believed that life was not fair and never would be for me. I could not understand why certain people in Trio, the small town in South Carolina where I lived, had so much more than we did. We worked long and hard while they seemingly did nothing, yet they drove the cars, had the pools and lived in nice homes. They had air conditioning. I dreamed of what living in such a home must have been like. My home did not have air conditioning and a pool was not even on my radar screen of hope.”



Expect students who have very little, to be bitter, to feel that life is not fair to them. What things can you do in your classroom to address this feeling for these students?

1-openly discuss the issue that life isn't fair, when examples of it come up in texts or in movies elaborate on it , acknowledge it is real, and don't ignore it, the more students can talk through this reality, the better they can cope with it and understand their feelings

2-students might expect teachers will be unfair to them, since life is unfair, so understand that this might be driving their behavior towards you, classmates, and school – **rather than disciplining**

students for acting this way, capitalize on ways you can reassure them, give them attention

3-share and talk with students about goals they can have, build their growth mind-set, and

empower them to understand with decisions they make they can control their future

Educating Students from Poverty

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