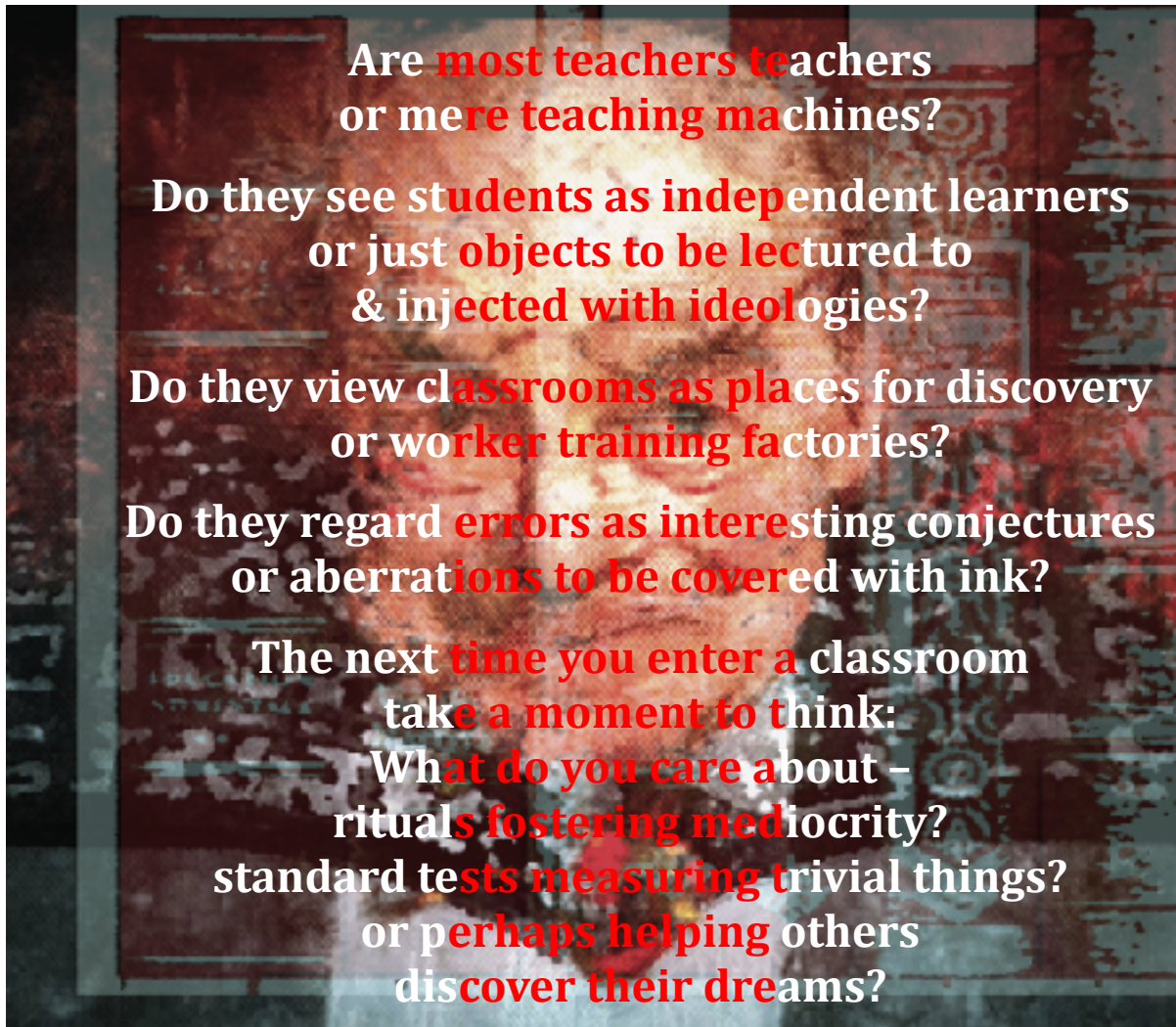


TEACHERS?

An inquiry into pedagogy



Are **most teachers** teachers
or **mere teaching machines**?

Do they see **students as independent** learners
or just **objects to be lectured to**
& **injected with ideologies**?

Do they view **classrooms as places** for discovery
or **worker training factories**?

Do they regard **errors as interesting conjectures**
or **aberrations to be covered** with ink?

The next **time you enter a classroom**
take a **moment to think**:
What do you **care about** –
rituals fostering mediocrity?
standard tests measuring trivial things?
or **perhaps helping others**
discover **their dreams**?

Satoru: These are questions all teachers should ask . . .

Melissa: Perhaps, but maybe we need to accept the fact that nearly every lesson is less than perfect, and in a sense that's perfectly okay.

Satoru: (raising his eyebrows) If you're content with mediocrity, yes. Yet if you believe education is the most important human endeavor, how could we be less than conscientious?

Liao: (clearing his throat) Well, I think we often over-estimate the role of teachers. Our parents and peers are more important.

Melissa: There is a paradox at play: we must regard ourselves both lightly and seriously. On one hand, students will learn despite our infelicities. On the other hand, we're responsible for everything that we do . . .

- T Newfields

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