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Cheryl Way

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# An Assessment Story



BY CHERYL WAY

When I was in seventh grade, I had an art class. The teacher, Mrs. U, was teaching us to draw in perspective. After she had explained the concept and demonstrated it for us, we were to draw our own picture showing perspective. I can still remember what I drew (and that was a very long time ago for me!). I drew an ocean against a horizon picture. I drew a large rock in the foreground with a fish swimming in the background. There was also a boat of some type in there, too.

I remember working very long and hard on that drawing to get it just right. I didn't think that I was a good artist to begin with, but I felt that I had understood the concept and I was pleased with the results of my picture. I handed it in.

This awful woman—I can't believe she was a teacher—took a wide, black, felt tip marker and began putting huge "X's" through my entire picture. She destroyed the picture which I'd worked hard on and felt proud of. As she X'd out my rock, my fish, my boat, and my horizon, she verbally attacked my method of drawing. She said I had done it all wrong

then handed back the remnant of my drawing and said to do it again. That's it. She said nothing positive about my attempt. She offered no hints about how I might do it again. The entire class heard her berate my drawing. I was almost in tears, yet I was furious.

From that point on, I ceased making any effort in that class. I existed in there like a person in prison, and when my sentence was up, I never took another art class. I never will. That woman convinced me that I had absolutely no artistic talent.

I knew I was no great artist, but no student deserves treatment like that. To this day, I dislike anything to do with art and will distance myself from it whenever possible. I swear if I were to meet her on the street, I'd be sorely tempted to give her a piece of my mind about what it is to be a teacher because she certainly had never been one.

*Cheryl Way is studying to be a social studies teacher at Michigan State University.*