

Behavioral Science

Importance of Sonder

Directions: Read the definition of sonder below and answer the thought questions below dealing with how you can apply this concept to the development of your educational experience.

Sonder

n. the realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own—populated with their own ambitions, friends, routines, worries and inherited craziness—an epic story that continues invisibly around you like an anthill sprawling deep underground, with elaborate passageways to thousands of other lives that you'll never know existed, in which you might appear only once, as an extra sipping coffee in the background, as a blur of traffic passing on the highway, as a lighted window at dusk.

Thought Questions:

1. Define sonder in your own words
2. How can you use the idea of sonder to help guide you in how you deal with other people?
3. How should a teacher/educator apply the idea of sonder in how they interact with their students?
4. Share an experience when maybe you should have considered sonder a bit more.
5. How can you apply the concept of sonder and Maslow's Hierarchy together when you are developing educational experiences for others?