

## Ms Tanya Jacqueline KEMPSTON

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H Having been the beneficiary of dedicated teaching in my own education, I strive to evoke the same passion for and dedication to education in my own students. Most importantly, I believe that teaching is never simply about what occurs in University, but should inspire students to learn in other environments and throughout the rest of their life.

I care about my students and my teaching. I believe teachers need to experiment and reflect on what they do so as to continuing to develop. After about 20 years spent teaching in secondary and tertiary environments, I feel excited by being challenged to keep my professional standards high and to make my teaching fresh, relevant and effective and negotiate the ‘swampy messiness’ of pedagogy and research-led practice with my students.

Hence, I regularly update and revise my materials and seek to understand new, more effective ways of teaching and learning. Since joining the University of Hong Kong, I have worked with my undergraduate and postgraduate students to help them go on to further postgraduate studies in Hong Kong as well as further afield. I am active in mentoring and providing advice to students, even after they have long graduated from our University.

I believe that a very important part of the job of a teacher is provide students with a variety of environments and active learning experiences that maximise opportunities to read a variety of academic literature thoughtfully and critically, participate in class activities, discuss how theory relates to practice and reflect upon their opinions and those of others. Again and again I have observed that everyone learns differently. Some work very well in collaborative situations in which there are opportunities not only to participate but to lead, whereas others are more comfortable watching and listening. Therefore, I make it a point to include a wide variety of materials to critique, practical activities to not only take part in but as a vehicle for relating theory to practice and types of discussion strategy such as think-pair-share, small group and fishbowl as well as practically-focussed activities. Teaching continues to be a demanding, exciting and rewarding profession for me.”





## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

"I was a student on the MEDD6704 Literature and Language Arts course in Semester 1, 2016–2017. This course not only was the most enjoyable module of my MEd, it was also the most practical and useful. Although we studied the theories behind the use of literature in language learning, we also experienced firsthand how to implement what we had learned. Through extensive role-play, we were shown how the simplest text could be adapted to suit all ages and situations. It has opened my eyes to possibilities that I had never considered before. The lecturer was completely dedicated to getting the best out of her students, and her professionalism shone through. We were encouraged to participate fully and gain the most from the course.

Although I have since left the classroom environment, I have used what I learned in MEDD6704 in various ways in my current job. I have used what I learned about adapting texts to assist the schools I support in a large puppetry competition, and used story-telling techniques in outreach programmes. I have also used process drama at various schools as Professional Development for teachers, and it has been well received. I would not have had the confidence to run these workshops without the knowledge and practical experience gained on this module. Another benefit that came to light recently, is that during the process of interacting so closely with classmates, we learned so much more about each other than we would have had we just sat in rows listening to a lecture. This has created lasting friendships, and also wonderful opportunities to collaborate."

**Rachael WILLIAMSON**  
MEd 2017



## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

I am among the many privileged to have had Ms Kempston as my lecturer whilst undertaking my PGDE at HKU in 2013–2014. Her positivity in the classroom was unmatched by any other lecturer that I had during my time at HKU and it created an atmosphere for learning in which all of her students felt comfortable enough to take risks and experiment with their ideas. Always available and approachable, Ms Kempston consistently went out of her way to be open to questions outside of class time. Her friendly demeanour created a warm and close rapport with all of her students. Whilst teaching us about differentiation and how to accommodate for varying students' needs when formulating lesson plans, Ms Kempston was able to lead by example as she always demonstrated these strategies in her own class by being uniquely resourceful and adaptive. In what can only be described as an eclectic and diverse class of students, she was able to customise her teaching and cater to all of the different levels of experience and backgrounds.

In addition to be extremely knowledgeable about her course content, she is highly organised and always well prepared. Her assignments were structured in such a way that it allowed us as students, to demonstrate our knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, whilst at the same time reflecting our personal pedagogies and styles. Often going that extra mile by continuously following up on the status of our coursework, Ms Kempston always gave timely and detailed constructive feedback on work that was submitted. She made it clear that it was her personal goal to see each and every one of us succeed and fulfil our full potential and that she was there to guide us along the way. Knowing that you have that kind of support in the classroom made us feel very motivated to excel in her course. Her lessons were always well thought out and balanced in terms of having time to listen, reflect, discuss and apply new information. She always made sure to get us out of our seats to engage us physically as well as mentally.

I feel very lucky to have had a teacher who promoted a positive growth mindset in the way that she did. Being taught by someone who has a genuine passion for literature and drama creates a love for those subjects that is contagious. Her influence on my educational experience has fundamentally shaped who I am as a teacher and I can only hope to have such a profound effect on one of my students one day. I believe she is worthy of being commended for being the truly outstanding teacher that she is by the University of Hong Kong.

Ayeesha SHAHANI  
PGDE 2014