

It's How You Made Them Feel  
Linda S. Paslov, Ed.D., Beta Chapter, Connecticut

Just think of all the lives we've touched  
O'er our esteemed careers!  
Old heartfelt letters I have clutched  
Would oft bring me to tears.

They sometimes share fond memories  
My mind has long erased,  
Which leads me to some reveries—  
Were all these thanks misplaced?

How could I impact life events  
Of those I once did teach?  
What powers (and to what extents)  
Did these have such far reach?

"Quite simple," you may say to me;  
I braced for the reveal.  
"It's not what you have said, or did:  
"It's how you made them feel."

These words of Maya Angelou  
Ring true to my proud ears.  
They help remind both me and you  
What we have known for years.

I read between the lines in those  
Sweet letters I have saved,  
So thankful for the path I chose—  
I gave what each child craved.

And so, I pass this message on  
To those who will commence  
A life of service whereupon  
Grand lessons they'll dispense.

It's great to teach curriculum—  
Facts, skills, and knowledge nursed.  
But don't forget this rule of thumb:  
Kids' basic needs come first.