

MARVEL @ THE GREATEST TEACHERS OF ALL TIME

by MJ Kazmierski @ www.GiveTheWorld.org

OPENING QUESTION

Who are the greatest teachers of our or any other era? And your life in particular?

If teachers shape who we become, and as a result the lives of people all around us, which ones should we celebrate?

It just so happens that all the greatest teachers in my life have surnames that begin with the letter K – like mine.

Professor Ambroży Kleks is the central character in the first book I ever fell in love with – *Akademia Pana Kleksa* is a 1946 children's novel published in Poland which remains the bestselling book for young readers in all 1001 years of Poland's history.

It's all about a teacher who runs a special private boarding school for troubled boys where they learn how to work together to solve all sorts of problems, not do boring lessons and tests in class – where they never get bad grades, only rewards (in the form of colorful freckles) if they have done something particularly good in fulfilling their own personal potential.

Did I become a teacher in 1999 because of this book? No, economic reasons were behind that decision – with no wealthy family or friends to support me as an artist I had to make a living somehow and teaching English as a foreign language made sense.

Professor Kleks was based on the real life legend that is Janusz Korczak – read all about this extraordinary historical figure – a man who redefined what education and pedagogy in the 20th Century could be – [here in this online resource](#) which I translated 7 years ago.

Then in 1989 – the most important year in my life – Peter Weir directed a movie titled *Dead Poets Society*, in which an English lit teacher in a private boarding school inspires students to read more books and think for themselves, rather than become soulless corporate ghouls like their elders. The film ends badly, of course, like all great works of art – forcing us to think for ourselves and not believe in happy endings which may or may not come – they certainly won't if we don't engage with great stories and learn to think for ourselves.

John Keating – “Oh Captain my Captain!” - if you don't know who that is do watch this movie – the teacher is played by Robin Williams who happens to be Hollywood's most underrated actor.

Now, Marek Koterski – a legendary Polish moviemaker – is my teaching guru. His films lift the lid on the world we live in today and help us learn lessons for the future... A true bard and teacher millions can listen to and learn from how to live healthier, happier lives just by watching his movies.

How about Kopernik, known around the world as Nicolas Copernicus, who lived in Poland 555 years ago taught us to see the world in a totally different, honest way – forcing us to admit we are not the epicenter of the universe and that we have a duty to look and learn and not just believe any old fairytale crap gurus all over the world want us to buy into... Are his teachings still not at the heart of everything we see and do today? How often do you think about hours, dates and seasons being the result of planetary and starry motions held together by gravity which allows us to live on Earth and experience everything each day as ever – get up in the mornings, drink coffee, walk, sit, stand, run, fly at times, and love?

CLOSING QUESTION

What makes a great teacher and who are the ones who have shaped your life the most?

THE 5 GOLDEN QUESTIONS



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