

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Xiaoxue LIU. First I want to thank for the conference to give us the chance to share our experiences.

Unlike other girls, I did not go to practicum but I did observe some Chinese classes seeking for more local class understanding. What I focused the most during the observation were teachers and students. With teachers, I observed teaching strategies and behavioral management skills. With students, I observed their learning styles as well as their hobbies and personalities.

Fortunately I was involved in some teaching activities there. Once, the Year10 students, whose first languages are Chinese, were given a task to do the research on a Chinese classic novel "Journey to West". Although they were born in a Chinese family, they had no idea of this novel at all. Taking this into consideration, I brought from home my son's Journey to West DVDs and kids' storybooks. DVDs were watched first in class then followed by reading the books, students then were asked to choose their own favorite character to start the related research. They were happy to get started in this way, otherwise, according to them, they would be terrified by such a 100 chapters novel.

Another experience was from the communication with a girl, who was very quiet in class and nearly did not talk at all. I was asked to help her. Her Chinese language level was not so good and she would not answer questions at first. I asked her about the breakfast in Australia, which is part of the translation task. She answered the questions and started to talk. She asked me back with a similar one, "what do Chinese people usually have for breakfast?" Our conversation went on well till the end of class. After class I was told that she lost her mother few months ago and just came back to school from home. I felt very sorry for her lost. However, what made me felt relieved was the fact that at least in the 45 minutes class, my work made her relaxed a little bit and temporarily let her forget the pain in her life. That is the ultimate goal of teaching, empathy. That's why we are here today.

Thank you!