

# Mr. Wharton

By: Walter Kirkham

The excitement of learning has been kindled by many of my teachers, but one stands out from the rest. Mr. Wharton was my teacher at Norwich Lower School when I was seven and living in England. Mr. Wharton generated a thirst for knowledge that I had never experienced or seen before. One reason Mr. Wharton was able to create a desire to learn more was because of his many outstanding character traits.

Two of Mr. Wharton's best character traits were that he was always energetic and excited. No matter how many times Mr. Wharton had taught a lesson in his 37 years of teaching he always radiated excitement about whatever might happen next. Even if we were just copying down notes Mr. Wharton would let his energy flow out and into the class, making even the duller day exciting. Next, every other Sunday Mr. Wharton would lead a club that would walk around different spots in England. Every other Sunday was filled with excitement weaving through everybody who attended. At every bird or beautiful flower, we would stop for a while and listen to his endless supply of knowledge about anything slightly interesting we had found. Finally, every once and a while he would host a special event where he would teach different outdoor skills like digging a hole in the ground and building a fire with flint. Even if he was asked the same question 17 times, he was always energetic, excited to continue.

Another one of Mr. Wharton's best characteristics was that he was always enthusiastic about teaching and learning new things. For instance, Mr. Wharton was always in pursuit of knowledge and someone to share his knowledge with. Every other Sunday I would leave tired and by the time I arrived back home, I would have a brain filled with new knowledge just gleamed from an ever-giving teacher. Similarly, every day at school I would arrive and immediately be given a fountain of knowledge that never ended and always stayed at the perfect pace for me to learn. Also, every minute of every day there seemed to be a new piece of information that was just learned and that was to be enthusiastically shared by Mr. Wharton to anyone who might ask. To conclude, every lesson, trip, and event held a minefield of new knowledge that was exploded at once by a teacher eager to spread information that would find a home in our brains and stay there forever more.

Lastly, Mr. Wharton was also constantly supportive. To start, no matter how badly you had messed something up Mr. Wharton always made sure to help fix the problem. Next, he was always willing to help with anything and was regularly helping someone recover from a difficult day. For instance, if any of the work you were assigned was getting too difficult to complete Mr. Wharton was always ready to slowly direct you through it until you understood. Finally, every day no matter what was happening Mr. Wharton was ready to help, fix, and teach you whatever you needed. The activities of the day didn't matter, Mr. Wharton was always on top of everything and ready to support you with whatever you needed at the moment.

No matter the day or the week Mr. Wharton was always energetic, enthusiastic, and supportive. First of all, Mr. Wharton was always energetic when he taught no matter how many times he had done it before. Furthermore, he brought an enthusiasm to help younger people understand the natural world and brought learning alive. Finally, Mr. Wharton was also constantly supportive and ready to help with anything you might need. Though many teachers have sparked the match of knowledge, Mr. Wharton tended to it until it erupted into flame.