

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS BLACK AND WHITE

When I was in elementary school, I got into a major argument with a boy in my class. I have forgotten what the argument was about, but I have never forgotten the lesson I learned that day.

I was convinced that I was right and he was wrong—and he was just as convinced that I was wrong and he was right. The teacher decided to teach us a very important lesson. She brought us up to the front of the class and placed him on one side of the desk and me on the other. In the middle of her desk was a large, round object. I could clearly see that it was black. She asked the boy what color the object was. “White,” He answered.

I couldn't believe he said the object was white, when it was obviously black! Another argument started between my classmate and me, this time about the color of the object.

The teacher told me to go and stand where the boy was standing and told him to come and stand where I had been. We changed places, and now she asked me what the color of the object was. I had to answer “white.” It was an object with two differently colored sides, and from his viewpoint it was white. Only from my side was it black.

My teacher taught me a very important lesson that day: you must stand in the other person's shoes and look at the situation through their eyes in order to truly understand their perspective.

There is so much beauty in the world and so much for us to be thankful for. We have many freedoms in America that many other countries only dream of. Often we don't take time to look at things the way others do and that can hurt us if we are closed minded to their opinions. There is so much more to see in the world besides the “black and white.” If we will be open to what surrounds us...our family, friends, the environment. . .and really look at all vibrant colors that fill our lives, we will be enriched by what we see and experience.