1st place

TEACH-ERS → TEACHERS

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Water. A five-letter word known by almost every creature in the world; a living word that awakened a soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free; a combination of letters finger-spelled by a caring touch that held the key to a dark and silent prison.

Little Helen was a hopeless, disabled girl — disabled to see, disabled to hear. Her life viewed only darkness and eavesdropped on that deafening, permanent silence she had known almost all her life. Things were too miserable for her that she had a lot of hard times dealing with the world... until a twenty-one-year old lady knocked at her door, shared the dark prison-world with her, and finally set Helen free, ready and changed.

This stranger was paid by Helen’s parents to tutor her, an incredible task of teaching the blind read, or better yet see, and write, just like a normal girl. Before, Helen felt all alone despite everyone around her, until she met Annie Sullivan whom she shared her peculiar life with and together they hurdled life’s simplest and most complicated situations.

Helen Keller is one of the world’s most famous literary celebrities for achieving a lot of things—once-out-of-reach, all thanks to her Teacher.

Teachers often share something to stare at, or even scare us. Aside from the challenge of teaching, they reach out and go extra miles to know their students better and to find out what other things would most probably help them catch students’ full will and attention. They stretch their patience even up to the limit of its elasticity just to make sure most, if not all, learned a lesson or understood Trigonometric Functions. Even if they feel some applied-efforts are unappreciated, teachers don’t mind as much as his/her kiddos would be able to answer their tests and still recognize the lesson after some time.

Moreover, teachers do also care for his/her students’ welfare and character building. They always remind us, though in different ways, to be careful, patient, and persevering, and be the best of who we can be as we go forward everyday. Not only in Values class we learn values and moral lessons but also in analyzing Juan Crisostomo Ibarra’s actions and nature as a person and as a Filipino.

More than the duty of teaching Plant Physiology, teachers have that calling to correct, shape, or hone every possible aspect of our lives. They are our friends, trainers, counselors, second parents... they are a part of each one of us. Even out-of-school-youth have that someone to call Ma’am, Sir, or simply, Teacher.
When Annie Sullivan died, Helen felt alone again and that she would not make it to the accomplishment of more dreams she and her Teacher Annie crafted. But there would always be a silent voice that will cheer her up in those moments, saying: *Teacher would not like that, Helen...* And so Helen went on everyday with a smile that turned into sweeter laughs as she lived a meaningful and remarkable life.

Annie hadn’t failed... for TEACHERS have a HEART (TEAcHeRs → HEART), great sense of CARE (teAChERs → CARE), and will to SEARCH (teACHERS → SERACH) what’s best for us in their own ways.

Commemorate their hard work; thank them for World Teachers’ Month *is* here!