Another Brick in the Wall

Essay by Sofiya Sidorova

When I studied at the secondary school I used to dream of my school building burning with a clear flame like a hero of the video "Another Brick In The Wall" by Pink Floyd. During my high school years I just put paid to learning most of the lessons. Moreover, I strongly believed teachers really looked forward to punishing pupils every moment children failed. Fortunately, I got on well with a few estimable teachers and faced radically different concept of teaching at the university so I've changed my mind.

I'm personally not prone to vilify my teachers, who even tried to bully me and did more harm to my education than good. In fact, I'm entirely thankful to them because they taught me a lesson to cope with several kinds of people in my life.

However, I totally agree with the authors of the video in terms of their school representation as a huge educational factory. Children are made into impersonalized robots by rote. I generally like the demonic image of school teachers which goes down and is deeply entrenched in our mind-set though. They are represented as heartless monsters who can even use corporal punishment and get away with it. These things are certainly exaggerated but only for the sake of bringing the issues of educational system into the open.

To my mind, the system of humiliation and punishment has already been outdated. Such educators no longer keep on float using outmoded approaches to teaching. I might accept that a plenty of Russian graduates entered teaching institutions because they didn't see the way out and, unfortunately, admission to these high schools is easy to mediocre pupils so far. More and more people have recognized the fact that there is no place for mediocre teachers nowadays though.

Unarguably, a teacher is a hard-to-master profession with each representative is largely responsible to dozens of people. That is exactly why I'm sure only the brightest ones should take it up because only brainy people are able to encourage others to think creatively and, as a result, carry much respect and build a knowledge-based society. It's already become clear that a graduate doesn't cost a penny if he is just "another brick in the wall". Otherwise, students are at the risk of suffering in the real world and have to start their education over again by means of life lessons. Our educational system is in dire need to reform now, but I believe we will manage to make it happen.