



I always asked my mother about her profession, 'Mum, why did you choose to be an accountant?' 'Well, you see, I just wish I could thank her ...' was always the only answer, but this time she told me the whole story.

'We were giggling and talking about the latest fashion. Miss Diana cleared her throat and asked us to hush. She told us that we had to discover our professions. We stared at each other and we thought that Miss Diana was nuts. She was always a target for cruel jokes just because of her physical appearance, a pair of fish-like eyes and a giant mouth. We were also quite angry with her because she was a demanding teacher. She asked us to work on a research paper on our career, and we had to interview someone in the field.

I went home confused for I didn't have any idea about my upcoming career.

Miss Diana monitored us in her class every day, and finally I picked accounting. This meant I had to go interview an accountant. It was absolutely a terrifying thing for me. I sat down in front of that serious-looking accountant barely able to speak. 'Do you have any questions for me?' was her first question. 'Ah...in fact...I didn't...' was the only thing I can say. Then the accountant gave me a big tip as an accountant – that is to have a clear mind. For the next hour, she told

me a lot about her work experience and life experience. I presented my oral report to Miss Diana and I got an A+. I started to like her for a while.

Approaching the end of the school year, some of the resentful students made fun of her again and were very rude to her because they were so upset that Miss Diana assigned them a very hard work. Tears filled her eyes and she was really hurt. I felt ashamed of myself for doing nothing better to help her.

Years later, I had to select my career. My parents wanted me to become a teacher, then I remembered Miss Diana and my desire at 15 to be an accountant. Finally, I chose the accounting field.

For the past 20 years, I have had the most successful career. I have never thought that I could become an important accountant in such an international company. One day, when I was having a cup of coffee in my office, an incredible wave of memories hit me and I realized that had it not been for Miss Diana, I would not be sitting in that office. Miss Diana would probably never know that without her encouragement, I would not have become an accountant.'

Mother then turned to me and said, 'So when you reflect back over your school days, you may think of a teacher – the one that you miss. So may be you can thank her before it's too late.'