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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/295/2021_2022__E4_B8_8A_E5_A4_96_E7_89_88_E5_c67_295748.htm Unit 3 Text Every teacher probably asks himself time and again : What are the reasons for choosing teaching as a career ? Do the rewards teaching outweigh the trying comments ? Answering these questions is not a simple task. Lets see what the author says. Why I Teach Peter G. Beidler Why do you teach ? My friend asked the question when I told him that I didnt want to be considered for an administrative position. He was puzzled that I did not want what was obviously a "step up" toward what all Americans are taught to want when they grow up : money and power. Certainly I dont teach because teaching is easy for me. Teaching is the most difficult of the various ways I have attempted to earn my living : mechanic , carpenter , writer. For me , teaching is a red-eye , sweaty-palm , sinking-stomach profession. Red-eye , because I never feel ready to teach no matter how late I stay up preparing. Sweaty-palm , because Im always nervous before I enter the classroom , sure that I will be found out for the fool that I am. Sinking-stomach , because I leave the classroom an hour later convinced that I was even more boring than usual. Nor do I teach because I think I know answers , or because I have knowledge I feel compelled to share. Sometimes I am amazed that my students actually take notes on what I say in class ! Why , then , do I teach ? I teach because I like the pace of the academic calendar. June , July , and August offer an opportunity

for reflection , research and writing. I teach because teaching is a profession built on change. When the material is the same , I change and , more important , my students change. I teach because I like the freedom to make my own mistakes , to learn my own lessons , to stimulate myself and my students. As a teacher , Im my own boss. If I want my freshmen to learn to write by creating their own textbook , who is to say I cant ? Such courses may be huge failures , but we can all learn from failures. I teach because I like to ask questions that students must struggle to answer. The world is full of right answers to bad questions. While teaching , I sometimes find good questions. I teach because I enjoy finding ways of getting myself and my students out of the ivory tower and into the real world. I once taught a course called "Self-Reliance in a Technological Society." My 15 students read Emerson , Thoreau , and Huxley. They kept diaries. They wrote term papers. But we also set up a corporation , borrowed money , purchased a run-down house and practiced self-reliance by renovating it. At the end of the semester , we would the house , repaid our loan , paid or taxes , and distributed the profits among the group. So teaching gives me pace , and variety , and challenge , and the opportunity to keep on learning. I have left out , however , the most important reasons why I teach. One is Vicky. My first doctoral student , Vicky was an energetic student who labored at her dissertation on a little-known 14th century poet. She wrote articles and sent them off to learned journals. She did it all herself , with an occasional nudge from me. But I was there when she finished her dissertation , learned that her

articles were accepted , got a job and won a fellowship to Harvard working on a book developing ideas shed first had as my student. Another reason is George , who started as an engineering student , then switched to English because he decided he liked people better than things. There is Jeanne , who left college , but was brought back by her classmates because they wanted her to see the end of the self-reliance house project. I was here when she came back. I was there when she told me that she later became interested in the urban poor and went on to become a civil rights lawyer. There is Jacqui , a cleaning woman who knows more by intuition than most of us learn by analysis. Jacqui has decided to finish high school and go to college. These are the real reasons I teach , these people who grow and change in front of me. Being a teacher is being present at the creation , when the clay begins to breathe. A "promotion" out of teaching would give me money and power. But I have money. I get paid to do what I enjoy : reading , talking with people , and asking question like , "What is the point of being rich ? " And I have power. I have the power to nudge , to fan sparks , to suggest books , to point out a pathway. What other power matters ? But teaching offers something besides money and power : it offers love. Not only the love of learning and of books and ideas , but also the love that a teacher feels for that rare student who walks into a teachers life and begins to breathe. Perhaps love is the wrong word : magic might be better. I teach because , being around people who are beginning to breathe , I occasionally find myself catching my breath with them. 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目直接下载。详

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