

Let's not leave it to chance

I look out around me, and without looking far, I see
An expansive space, shelves filled with the latest titles
Children brooding over their contents,
A small group absorbed in silent reading,
Individuals browsing the contents of a specified web page,
Recording relevant information for the task at hand.
Moving confidently between the digital and traditional.
A number of adult supporters guiding the learning process,
The teacher-librarian and the teacher, hand in hand.

Not very far afield but in another location,
In a room the size of a kitchenette,
Huddles a class of similar students,
Struggling to find a place against the backdrop of dingy shelves,
Sparsely filled with some new, mostly faded,
Titles that the students will rarely get a look into,
As this is the one and only day,
The space is open for viewing.
The teacher-librarian milking the moment,
Lamenting opportunities lost.

Further left of field, in yet another location,
Irrespective of space or titles at hand,
The buzz of learning,
Diminished,
Absent.
Who will find the time
In the busy schedule of the classroom teacher,
To unpack the wealth of opportunities that could be,
Draw together the curriculum and the resources –
Websites, book titles, learning objects,
Love of reading for the sake of it,
Inspire to aspire, up skill and lead,
Where are the personnel who hold the key?

Turning full circle and down the passage of time
Do we see a fading light or an illuminating spark?

Change - the inevitable.

Need it be harsh? Need it be irrevocable?

Unpredictable? Inequitable?

It need be foreseeable, adaptable, supportable.

It need be defined, mandated, applauded.

Which scenario presents a preferred future
For our citizens of tomorrow?

Let's not leave it to chance.

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