

There once was a teacher here in the Midwest
Who simply refused to administer a test
She felt overwrought over the thought
Of assessing and testing what she had taught
She believed all tests were too time-consuming
When asked about testing, she would say, fuming:
*I'm a good teacher; I might be the best
But I will never – never – administer a test*

The school principal, if pressed, would attest
That the teacher was clearly one of his best
Her instructional methods left him impressed
So he didn't protest her refusal to test
In fact, this teacher was largely ignored
By everyone, except the school board
The board president, in particular, became obsessed
With this teacher who he had grown to detest

One day, stressed, the president made a request
To meet with the teacher (and she acquiesced)
They met that night, as you may have guessed
And addressed the teacher's quest against tests
*While assessing is something that you might contest
The district's money in you we invest
So to you I suggest that at my behest
You must suppress your hatred of tests*

The teacher presented her case, while underscoring
That tests are time-consuming & also quite boring
She explained how she kept her students engaged
But the school board president became enraged
Do your students learn? the board president pressed
Of course they do! the teacher professed
Leaving, with anger, the teacher yelled *Move it!*
Before reaching the door, she heard him yell *Prove It*

What did you say? she asked him while turning
*I want you to prove that your students are learning
You don't know what knowledge or skills they possess
If you always refuse to test or assess
Well I grade their homework and on Monday night
I assign them each a paper to write
I ask questions in class, but again, I must stress
That I will never – never – administer a test.*

*You never assess? Surely you jest
For each one of those things is some type of test
You check learning through homework & question
Keep up the good work! That's my suggestion
The teacher looked startled and then confessed
That her knowledge of testing had just progressed
Now I know that I had it all wrong
I guess I was testing my students all along*

I hope this story has laid to rest
Some misconceptions about the word *test*
While questions on paper are usually the norm
Tests can take on an alternate form
And remember that you should not go on assuming
That tests are boring and too time-consuming
Tests and instruction go hand-in-hand
If the test is both well-developed and planned
So learn to test and learn to assess
And in your teaching, you shall find success