

# Carol Ann Tomlinson

## Quotes

*Teacher, Teaching, Needs, Students, Years, Understanding, Jobs, Skills,  
School, Long, Humility, Generations, Assessment, Today, Important, Thinking,  
Safety, Distance, Deep Understanding, Class*

Differentiation is classroom practice that looks eyeball to eyeball with the reality that kids differ, and the most effective teachers do whatever it takes to hook the whole range of kids on learning.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

In differentiated classrooms, teachers begin where students are, not the front of a curriculum guide.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Assessment is today's means of modifying tomorrow's instruction.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Teachers craft classrooms that are good matches for their teaching styles as well as for learner needs.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

A gifted teacher has an unflinching eye for magical classrooms & loses sleep over anything less than the highest quality.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

The central job of schools is to maximize the capacity of each student.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

As educators we need to understand that there is no finish line in our work.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

It is not so important to have all the answers as to be hungry for them.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Plan to be better today, but don't ever plan to be finished

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Interest refers to student's affinity, curiosity, or passion for a particular topic or skill.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

The high stakes test culture runs almost totally counter to what we know about how people learn. It causes us to engage in professional malpractice on a regular basis.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Readiness is a student's entry point relative to a particular understanding or skill.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

We can always gain more depth and breadth in our work [as educators]. There are always new discoveries to be made.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Sometimes educators suffer from the "I already do that" syndrome. In those cases, we feel inadequate if we admit we have a distance to go as learners of our craft.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

When challenge and skills are in balance the activity is its own reward

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

As a teacher, it is your job to make explicit whatever you though was implicit

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

We aren't quite sure what we're trying to differentiate, and therefore can't quite see how to do it other than giving some students more to cover and some less. That rarely works.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Accepting both the opportunity and the responsibility evokes a great deal of humility.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

The best educators I have met never stop asking questions. Some of them have taught for forty years and continue to be energized by new possibilities.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

We need teacher educators who regularly spend a great deal of time in classrooms so they have a deep understanding of where they students will teach.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Prospective teachers may read about the science of education, but they'll only grasp the art in their early years by seeing it practiced and having it commended to them.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

[Students] often have a "We can figure this out - don't just tell us" attitude. In that way, they can be less patient with "traditional" approaches to teaching.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Until a teacher learns to use elements like time, space, materials, groupings, and so forth flexibly, it's incredibly difficult to teach students as they need to be taught.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

We have students at the university say on a regular basis, "You're asking us to think and no one has ever done that in school."

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

Teaching is a very habit-bound endeavor. We're unsettled by the

unfamiliar. We're creatures of habit too.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

[Students] are exposed to many things the majority of their teachers didn't encounter until much later in their growing up years.

~Carol Ann Tomlinson

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