I have come to a frightening conclusion. I am the decisive element in the classroom. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather.

As a teacher I possess tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyful. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or honor; hurt or heal.

In all situations it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a child humanized or de-humanized.

Haim Ginott
Clinical psychologist, child therapist, parent, educator, teacher and author