

**“Opening Doors”
Lessons from “The King’s Speech”**

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A Teacher and His Student

Lionel Logue



**Albert Frederick Arthur George:
“Bertie”**



The Teacher: Lionel

- Lionel, worked alone
- He was not particularly famous, but he had a growing speech therapy practice
- He had not written any books, but he studied
- He was passionate
 - He knew his craft
 - He understood his students
- He was unorthodox in his approaches

The Student: Albert

- Albert has an issue with “stammering speech”
He would stutter and stammer when addressing crowds and/or put into uncomfortable settings
- Albert had come from a difficult background—
one of being criticized, put down, and being treated poorly.
 - His past had directly impacted his present and, without help, his future.

A “Disorienting Dilemma”

- The early 20th century was a time of technological advances, two of the greatest were: radio and film.
 - These allowed communication across the world
 - They changed the face of government and politics allowing people to see and hear their leaders.
 - King George V told Bertie after his 1934 Christmas radio address that the radio has changed the monarchy.

Mezirow's

“Perspective Transformation” 5 Steps:

- Disorienting dilemma (personal crisis).
- Critical reflection (assessing assumptions about myself and the world).
- Changed world view.
- Reflective discourse (“reality testing” with family, friends, etc.).
- Action (living the new perspective).

The Meeting

- Elizabeth
 - The Duchess of York
 - Sought help for Bertie
 - She saw his potential and despite the fact that other “Professionals” couldn’t help, she didn’t give up.
 - [Scene](#)



The Meeting

- Watch this clip and think about the following:
 - What words would describe Bertie and his attitude/demeanor?
 - What does Lionel do to address his attitude?
- [Video Clip](#)

Albert

- He was resistant
 - Past therapists were not effective
 - They embarrassed him
- He was angry
 - At how he had been treated and at his “lot in life”
- He had no confidence
 - He would not be able to overcome his obstacles
 - He allowed his past to limit his future

The Treatment

- Lionel used unusual methods
- Lionel assessed his student
 - Looked at his individual need
 - Developed an individualized program
 - And got results

Three Doors

You must walk through them and
choose your direction



Door #1

Other People

Who Surrounds You?

Those who tear you down?

- David assumed the throne (as Edward VIII) after George V's death, but gave it up.
 - David had taunted Bertie
 - His father had been critical
 - Care givers had been cruel
 - Many from the “inner circle” did not believe that Bertie could be king

Those who build you up?

- Elizabeth knew his struggles and potential
 - Stood by his side
 - Sought help
- Winston Churchill
 - Shared from his own experience with a speech issue
 - Saw Bertie's potential

[Clip with Churchill](#)

Door #2

Trust



Trust

Teachers

“Trust me, I’m a professional”

Teachers are trained professionals

Teachers understand the process

Teachers have a wealth of
Knowledge
Experiences
Resources

The Process

“This doesn’t make sense!”

Education is standardized and individualized

“My goal is to _____”

Is your goal too big?

Break your goal down into smaller steps

“mile posts”

“benchmarks”

Trust

Bertie, like most adult learners, had the ability to walk away from Lionel and his methods

He chose to stay, but why?

Maybe he saw the enthusiasm that Lionel possessed

Maybe he recognized the progress of his treatment

Maybe he developed respect for Lionel

Lionel and Bertie developed a strong TRUST relationship

Characteristics of Adult Educators

What Learners Value in Teachers (Brookfield)

- Credibility (have something to offer)
 - Expertise (you really know your stuff)
 - Experience (as a real life worker & as a teacher)
 - Rationale (having a thought through plan of action)
 - Conviction (that the learning is important)
- * Instructors who are Authoritative, not Authoritarian

Characteristics of Adult Educators

What Learners Value in Teachers (Brookfield)

Authenticity

- Congruence (between your words & actions)
- Full Disclosure (of your expectations & criteria)
- Responsiveness (to students' learning difficulties)
- Personhood (appropriate autobiographical examples)

Impostorship

“One of my most frequent errors is to assume that if one or two people are expressing resistance, then it must be felt by the majority of the class. My feelings on this matter are probably a manifestation of the impostor syndrome.

Stephen Brookfield, 1995 *Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher* (p. 123)



Door #3

Belief

What to Believe?

Do you believe that you are here for a purpose?

Do you believe that you have unique gifts and talents?

Do you believe that there are things left for you to learn?

Do you believe that you can learn them?

Do you believe that your past failings and shortcomings limit your ability to achieve?

Education?

Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.

Daniel J. Boorstin, American historian

The purpose of teaching is to help students learn.

Stephen Brookfield: *The Skillful Teacher: On Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom (2nd Ed)*

What to Believe?

Teachers

Do you believe that you are here to help students learn?

Do you believe that your students can learn?

Then Do It!

Students

Do you believe that your teachers can help you learn?

Do you believe that your teachers believe that you can learn?

Then Do It!

A Review

Despite the obstacles he faced, King George VI stepped through:

Door #1

And associated with people who built him up

Door #2

And trusted his instructor and the process he took him through

Door #3

And learned to believe in himself

[Trailer](#)