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The Secret To Being A Successful Teacher Can Be Found In A Tube of Toothpaste

I once read an article which was written by a man named Jeff Keller. After I finished the article, I realized that the title, "There's A Lot More Left In The Tube", is one of those motivational quotations that you would like to hang up in every classroom to remind teachers that you should never give up too soon. I would recommend that most classroom teachers should consider putting this quotation up in a banner in a place of honour where all students will be reminded of this very important message.

No doubt we have all experienced frustration and despair at various times in our lives when we felt we had done everything we possibly could to achieve a particular goal. It may be something as simple as trying to grow flowers in your garden, or as serious as how to cultivate a better relationship with your child or spouse, or even something to do with your job as a classroom teacher. Whatever the case, there comes a point when you simply feel you can't go on any further.

And yet, the secret to success, and the motivation you are seeking, may very well be as close as your tube of toothpaste. Let me try to explain.

Every time I come to the end of a tube of toothpaste, I am completely amazed that just when I think the tube is absolutely empty, I can squeeze many more brushings out of it. I'm sure you have all gone through the same thing. I look at the seemingly empty tube in my hand, then I look at the new tube in the box, and I have to decide whether to throw away the old and open the new, or try to squeeze a few more out of the old. Without fail, just when I think the tube is absolutely empty, I get to squeeze another 12 or 15 more brushings out of it.

So, next time you find yourself in a situation where you feel you just can't go on any further, remember the "tube". It's usually when things haven't been working out and you feel like quitting, that you experience a major breakthrough. We can all recall times when success came when we were on our last chance or when we were doing something for the final time. It is when you dig deep down for that one last burst of energy that you find your goal.

Unfortunately, too many people quit too early - just before they could get around that final corner to success. All they needed to do is squeeze one more drop from the tube. Space does not permit me to write the hundreds of examples of successful people who kept on going in the face of adversity and disappointment. Even the writers of "Chicken Soup For The Soul" were rejected by 33 publishers before they found one who would

print their book. What if they would have quit too soon? Many of the world's leaders are examples of people who reached their goal just after their greatest setback.

One of the most important lessons you can give your students is that if you have a goal; if you truly believe in yourself; and if you have the passion, enthusiasm and commitment to go for your dream; then keep squeezing that "inner tube of toothpaste" one more time. And don't forget this when you feel you have done everything possible with one or more of your more challenging students. Just keep squeezing. It is only when you run out of the "passion" that you will know that your "tube is empty". Just make sure that you don't quit too soon. Success may be just around the corner.

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