

Note to Nerds March 15th 2019

Hell Week

My son, being a theater techie, informs me that the week of the opening of a show was the toughest week for everyone involved. He told me this on Saturday that the week ahead was going to be just as described above. Pressing him to help me understand, he explained that the drive to get everything just right for a performance would just about drive a person to the edge.



This past week, by some quirk of fate, I have been preparing for a modest one act play titled Herbert. I have enjoyed it, don't get me wrong!

But I realize the two or three hours I've spent each evening has taken a toll on me that I did not expect. Waking up each morning surprised that the day had arrived so early. But by the good grace of a cup of coffee and the eagerness of Murray to "go for a walk," as it were, I was able to start each day with a bit of momentum if not a great deal of energy.

As I finish up the newsletter this Friday afternoon, a teacher was returning some borrowed materials to the Collaborative that she had used for a lab. I could sense that she was determined that her students would have the best experience that she can give them. She told me that she had spent the day planning the next four and a half weeks. She wanted to get the students ready for their Georgia Milestones test.

She was already thinking about what she would do when testing was over and asked if we would be available in May. She recounted what she done the last couple of weeks with her classes and that she had spent an extraordinary amount of time grading. I marveled at her energy, even as I could see she was tired.

We continued to talk as I walked her out of the building and to her car.

In that conversation I found out that she had taken a **personal day** to complete her grading for the nine weeks and so that she might plan lessons for the weeks ahead. (*You who are teachers are nodding your head knowingly.*)

Could you imagine a lawyer or doctor or carpenter or engineer taking the day off so that they might get ready for the task ahead!

It is then that I realized that this stretch of months for teachers pale in comparison to the four-letter week that I was experiencing!
God Bless these wonderful people - Teachers!

I hope you have a restful weekend,
Herbert ... I mean
Peter

