

# “Science, Anyone?”

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This is the story of a group of ninth graders who were trying very hard to cope with science subjects. I had been warned by friends and family that science subjects are not easy. But I wanted to do my matric with physics, chemistry and biology.

That day we had a physics test. The whole class was ill-prepared. None of us had quite grasped the concepts. We were hoping for a miracle: may be the teacher will be absent, may be she will forget about the test? But none of this happened. The teacher came to class and she remembered that we had a test. But we still got our miracle.

After seeing our perplexed faces, Madam Shabana wanted to know what the problem was. Had we not prepared for the test? Were we confused? I was sitting in the front row, so she asked me where the problem was. I told her I was finding it difficult to understand the numerical.

She gave us a talk about how nothing is difficult, how you have to be able to face challenges etc. Then she explained the numerical using a completely different method this time, which we all understood. It was so useful that my friends and I decided to apply the same method to numericals in other subjects and help each other out if anyone got stuck.

This approach helped us immensely. I learnt that while people need to be encouraged, like Ms. Shabana encouraged us, they also need to be told exactly how to do things. Both these elements together make up effective teaching.

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