

## Famous Teacher Flicks – Richard Lederer

Real teachers have stiff necks from writing on the blackboard while keeping their eyes on their students. Real teachers ask quiet people at parties if they have anything to share with the group and ask them when they leave if they have their hats and mittens. Real teachers always have a tissue in hand in case somebody sneezes. Real teachers annoy their friends by correcting their grammar.

Real teachers possess incredible bladder capacity. Real teachers learn to inhale their lunch in as little as three minutes. Real teachers grade papers during commercials, in faculty meetings, in the car, in the bathroom and at social and athletic events. Real teachers get paid to work six hours a day but actually work eight or more. Real teachers drive old beater cars they're still trying to pay off and for which they can barely afford the insurance. Real teachers have lots of vacation time but no money to travel.

Real teachers have their best conferences in parking lots. Real teachers know they can't reach all their students, but that doesn't stop them from trying. Real teachers are some of the bravest, altruistic, and underpaid people you've ever met.

Teaching may not be the most glamorous of professions, but teachers are featured in some of the most thoughtful and hilarious shows on television – from *Room 222* and *Welcome Back, Kotter* to *The Education of Max Bickford* and *Boston Public*. Teachers have also inspired some of the most luminous films that Hollywood has produced. June Marlowe portrayed the beautiful Miss Crabtree in five *Little Rascals* films in the 1930s, and Robert Donat won an Oscar in 1939 for his depiction of the Mr. Chipping in *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*.

Focusing on more recent films that are set in schools, match the films in the left-hand column with the actors in the right-hand column who portrayed the teachers (or, in three cases, the principals) therein:

1. <i>The Corn is Green</i> (1945)	Anne Bancroft
2. <i>The Blackboard Jungle</i> (1955)	James Belushi
3. <i>The King and I</i> (1956)	Cate Blanchett
4. <i>The Miracle Worker</i> (1962)	Michael Caine
5. <i>Up the Down Staircase</i> (1967)	Bette Davis
6. <i>To Sir, with Love</i> (1967)	Sandy Dennis
7. <i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i> (1969)	Danny DeVito
8. <i>The Paper Chase</i> (1973)	Michael Douglas
9. <i>Conrack</i> (1974)	Richard Dreyfus
10. <i>Educating Rita</i> (1983)	Albert Finney
11. <i>Children of a Lesser God</i> (1986)	Glenn Ford
12. <i>The Principal</i> (1987)	Morgan Freeman
13. <i>Lean on Me</i> (1989)	Mel Gibson
14. <i>Dead Poets Society</i> (1989)	Whoopi Goldberg
15. <i>Stand and Deliver</i> (1989)	Ryan Gosling
16. <i>Kindergarten Cop</i> (1990)	John Houseman
17. <i>Sister Act II: Back in the Habit</i> (1993)	William Hurt
18. <i>The Man Without a Face</i> (1993)	Deborah Kerr
19. <i>Renaissance Man</i> (1994)	Kevin Kline
20. <i>The Browning Version</i> (1994)	Edward James Olmos
21. <i>Mr. Holland's Opus</i> (1995)	Michelle Pfeiffer
22. <i>Dangerous Minds</i> (1995)	Sidney Poitier
23. <i>Music of the Heart</i> (1999)	Julia Roberts
24. <i>Pay It Forward</i> (2000)	Arnold Schwarzenegger
25. <i>Wonder Boys</i> (2000)	Maggie Smith
26. <i>The Emperor's Club</i> (2002)	Kevin Spacey
27. <i>Mona Lisa Smile</i> (2003)	Meryl Streep
28. <i>Half Nelson</i> (2006)	Hilary Swank
29. <i>Freedom Writers</i> (2006)	Jon Voight
30. <i>Notes on a Scandal</i> (2006)	Robin Williams

### Answers

1. Bette Davis 2. Glenn Ford 3. Deborah Kerr 4. Anne Bancroft 5. Sidney Poitier (who also played a student in *The Blackboard Jungle*) 6. Sandy Dennis 7. Maggie Smith 8. John Houseman 9. John Voight 10. Michael Caine 11. William Hurt 12. James Belushi 13. Morgan Freeman (playing real-life principal Joe Clark) 14. Robin Williams 15. Edward James Olmos (playing real-life teacher Jaime Escalante) 16. Arnold Schwarzenegger 17. Whoopi Goldberg 18. Mel Gibson 19. Danny DeVito 20. Albert Finney 21. Richard Dreyfus (who also played the lead in the TV series *The Education of Max Bickford*) 22. Michelle Pfeiffer (playing real-life teacher LouAnne Johnson) 23. Meryl Streep (playing real-life teacher Roberta Guaspari) 24. Kevin Spacey 25. Michael Douglas 26. Kevin Klein 27. Julia Roberts 28. Ryan Gosling 29. Hilary Swank (playing real-life teacher Erin Gruwell) 30. Cate Blanchett