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More on Homework

I was amazed to read your responses to my comments on homework. Apparently, I'm not the only person who questions its value. The greatest surprise came from a former exchange student who lived with us on the Cascabel Ranch in Arizona. She is now the mother of 5 children and lives in Mexico. She offers a great suggestion.

Teresa wrote:

About homework, I thought all that checking the backpack, looking for instructions, signing papers, etc. was something that had to be done only here in Mexico. I actually hate it and think of it as a boring and foolish thing to do. My kids have other interests, and they make their homework during their free time. As you imagine, I receive a lot of notes from teachers. Your suggestions for homework are great, and I am going to print them to send them to the director of the school. A good homework could be making a "happy calendar," by asking: What was the happiest thing that happened during the day, write it down on a calendar and keep it forever. Good memories forever!!

I can assure you that Teresa gave all of us good memories forever, during the year she lived with us.

The following website on homework came from NCTE. Developing a Homework Plan: Issues and Guidelines Creating a homework plan that supports the needs of all families and students is an ever-present challenge! How much homework is reasonable? Researcher Harris Cooper gathered homework data across the U.S. and offers reasonable ranges for a "nationally generic district," first through ninth grades. NCTE elementary members further spell out the issues and offer three different homework plans in this issue of School Talk.

<http://www.ncte.org/pdfs/members-only/st/ST0051October99.pdf>