“W” #1 Prompt

Your first “W” assignment focuses on the opening chapters of our course text, *Spitwad Sutras*. Specifically, we want to know what you have to say not only about the book (and its author), but about its relevance to your journey toward becoming a student of teaching.

In the event that you desire something a bit more specific or directive as a prompt for this assignment, consider those below:

- How, if at all, do you relate to the author’s collection of knowledge, skills and dispositions about his 9th grade English students?
- To what extent, if any, do you resonate with the author’s calling his book “an intellectual survival manual for classroom teachers” and why?
- In what ways do you agree or disagree with the author’s subtitle: “Classroom Teaching as Sublime Vocation” and why?
- Which particular stories, analyses or just plain quotes from these opening chapters have moved you (positively or negatively) most deeply and why?
- Early in the book (p.4), the author admits that when peering out across his classroom, “All I could see were various versions of myself.” Have you ever considered that something like this might happen to you? Why/why not?
- In what ways have you connected with the author’s story-based realizations about such teacher matters as power, authority, pedagogy, relationships, etc.?

Assignment:
With our ‘W’ rubric in mind, write a short essay about some personal aspect of your encounter with the opening chapters of *Spitwad Sutras*.

Due: 12 February, 2009 (To be submitted ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTOR PREFERENCE, either in paper form OR electronically.)

Note: This assignment IS revisable.