



# *Personal* & **AUTHENTIC**

CHAPTER 3

Tom shares a quote from comedian Michael Jr.,

“*When you know your why, your what has more impact, because you are walking in or towards your purpose.*”

So, what is your why? What is your purpose?

Why do you do what you do?

**What's your story?**  
**Which of your life experiences have been central  
to how you see the world?**

**Tom shares a moment on a train where he watched this video which caused him to pause and reflect. Take a few minutes to view the video and reflect.**

**VIEW VIDEO**

What are the “hidden stories” inside our students  
each day that have an impact?

What are the hidden stories inside our colleagues that do?

Share a time, without breaking confidentiality,  
when understanding a student’s hidden story,

caused you to change your understanding of the student.

(FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION)

What “hidden stories” are inside of you?

How do these personal experiences  
impact you as an educator?

How do they impact the way you see the world?

Think of a student that you've worked with  
that had a difficult life story.  
In what ways did understanding his/her story  
help you maximize your impact?

**Have you ever worked with a student  
who had significant medical needs?  
How did you ensure he/she was always included?  
What did you learn about yourself in the process?**



How well do you know your students?

How well do you know your co-workers?

How well do you know their stories?

How do these stories impact how you do what you do?

What strategies do you use to get to know  
those people you work with each day?