

Second Wednesday

Hello Everyone,

I like the German idea that Woden's Day is Midweek. It is odd but I often savour the way another language expresses something over and above the way my mother tongue does. Does this happen with you, too?

It's been hard to get my mind into today's work with you and yet now that the rusty machine (my brain) is ticking over more or less OK I wonder why it has been hard. It could be tiredness and yet I am receiving so much energy from you

* guys.....

Do you perceive yourself as receiving energy from your students? Which ones give you the best energy?

You will notice that this letter to the group starts in a personal, reflective and jumping--about sort of way. Another use of the "letter to the class". I am fully aware that I have a long way to go in exploring the full potential of this marvellous way of modelling written language for my students. (I am also aware that each teacher must bend the technique to her/his way of relating to their groups.)

Following the work done by S [redacted] with you this morning, explaining TA as a kind of thinking frame, this afternoon I want to offer you a couple more of these, though drawn from areas other than TA. Today we have so many thinking tools at our disposal that it is mind-boggling. How to choose?

What do I mean by the term "thinking frame"? If I make a shopping list in random sequence, this is one way of thinking about what I am going to buy. If I organise the list in function of the where items to be purchased are along the aisles of the super market, this is another sort of "thinking frame".

Let me offer you a thinking frame drawn from the work of Steiner (Waldorf Schools).

You can think of a lesson in these terms:

- **What was my preparation like?**
- **What was the rhythm of the hour like?**
- **Did I have moments of empathy or of antipathy with people in the class?**
- **What obstacles did I face?**
- **What happened that I had not expected?**

Please bring a lesson you remember from this past year to mind, turn to a partner and analyse the lesson through this Steinerian filter.

Mario



Ps: great that you no longer have to be elegant cryptographers to decipher my letters!