

Participant 3 - River of experience

(translation of notes to the river which were provided by the participant)

Symbol legend (metaphors)

Since I am a teacher who works in an independent state, with its own symbols, indomitable desire for freedom, and national traditions, my river is situated against the background of the flag of Ukraine. Where blue is the colour of a peaceful sky, and yellow is the colour of fertile sown fields and hardworking people.



For me, a ripe sheaf of grain on a yellow background is a symbol of the seeds of knowledge that I have sown, which have sprouted into maturity. But unfortunately, there are also blackened, broken sheaves of grain - they symbolize students who have died during Russia's occupation while in the ranks of our Armed Forces, protecting the peaceful sleep of Ukrainian citizens.



A star is an achievement. The larger it is, the greater the achievement.



Waterfall - delay, change of workplace, retraining.



Rainbow - time to gain new experience, self-development.



Tent - maternity leave, leisure time.



Mountains represent a long-term illness, a time of rehabilitation.



Tributary - branching out of work, working in several positions at the same time.



Eagle – upward trajectory, success.



Copyright symbol - cooperation with Ukrainian publishing houses. Publication of own workbooks, methodological manuals.



The pedestal indicates curatorial work. Head of the methodological organization of elementary school teachers.



Involvement in international and national projects.



Pitfalls are minor difficulties at work.



Award - earning the pedagogical title 'Teacher-Methodologist'



Train window - students who were forced to leave Ukraine because of the war.



Lightning is the border between a peaceful life and war.

1996 - 2000 - Study at the Sarnenskyi Teachers College of Rivne State Humanities University. I completed my basic post-secondary education with a level I-II degree of accreditation in the specialty 'Teacher of elementary grades, head of a children's choreographic team'.

2000 - 2004 – Accepted the position of teacher-organizer at Kostopil secondary school No. 5. Concurrent teaching areas: visual arts at the secondary level (grades 5-7), physical education at the elementary level (grades 1-4), and evening fitness classes for teachers. Each year, during the summer break, I worked additionally on a part-time basis at the Lviv Express Railway health and wellness camp in the village of Oleksandria, Rivne region.

During this period, I earned the title of 'Best Educator' and a personal award from the Minister of Railway Transport of Ukraine, H. M. Kyrpa for diligent work.

Pupils of Kostopil general education school No. 5 repeatedly took top honours in national environmental contests. At this time, I founded a school-based branch of the children's public organization 'Ecology Watch'.

For 4 years, my pupils were first-prize winners of the regional tour guide/local historian competition. Areas of study: 'Afghanistan - a country of separation and poverty', 'Development

of the Rodyna enterprise and the factory's production range based on high-quality samples', 'The life of Kostopil liaisons of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in exile'.

While head of the drama theatre of my school, our performers were laureates of drama competitions three years in a row. At the elementary level, they won for the musical 'Snow White in a new way', at the secondary level (10-11 grades) for 'Talentless' by I. Karpenko-Karyi. For four years, I was captain of the school team (teachers and students) in the Cheerful and Clever Clubs Competition.

As part of the circus studio 'Cascade', I was a laureate of numerous national and international competitions.

In 2005, I was transferred to the position of vice-principal of training at Kostopil general school No. 4.

During this short period of time, I conducted curatorial work with class teachers on the topic: 'Proactive education: relevant aspects', with my own work on this subject winning 2nd place in a contest-fair of pedagogical skills in the Rivne region.

I organized a school-based branch of the national Ukrainian scout organization Plast. I continued my research concerning the fate of Ukrainian Insurgent Army members.

Concurrently, I continued to work during the summers at the Railway health camp. At this time, I earned the title of 'Best Young Teacher of Kostopil'.

2006 - 2010 - the birth of my first child. Maternity leave lasted 2 months. I was offered the position of elementary teacher at the elite Taras Shevchenko Kostopil Humanities Gymnasium. It was a very difficult time: first, a small child to care for; second, I had not worked in this area for some time and had to start from the basics.

During the period 2006-2008, I successfully passed my extraordinary attestation and was awarded the 1st qualification category. I was the winner of the 2nd round and laureate of the 3rd round of the Teacher of the Year competition in the 'Elementary Education' nomination.

2008 - 2010 – my second child was born. Finally, a two-year maternity leave. Time of peace and love spent with family.

2011-2016 - I worked as an elementary teacher at the T. Shevchenko Kostopil Humanities Gymnasium. During this period, I passed my teacher attestation and received a higher qualification category.

My 3rd grade student (2012) won an award for participating in the district-level competition of readers-reciters of the works of poet Taras Shevchenko, as well as 3rd place in the regional (3rd round) Petro Jacyk International Ukrainian Language Competition

Pupils of the 4th grade (2013) won 1st place in the 2nd round of subject Olympiads in Ukrainian language and natural science, and 2nd and 3rd place in the 3rd round.

For many years, my students have been prize-winners of the 'Kangaroo' (mathematics) and 'Kolosok' (interactive science) international contests.

2014-2016 - head of the creative elementary teacher's group for the Kostopil district (29 educational institutions).

2016-2017 – serious leg injury, knee joint replacement, several complex operations. Long-term rehabilitation. Depression. During this time, being continuously in hospitals, I decided to devote myself to self-study. It was during this period that I completed all possible online courses and participated in more than 100 educational webinars. I also started conducting educational webinars for Ukrainian teachers on various national platforms.

In 2018-2019, I returned to my workplace on crutches.

In 2018, I was a finalist of the national 'Speaker of the Year' competition and held a number of webinars for educators as part of the competition.

During this period, I passed the attestation for pedagogical workers and received the title 'Senior Teacher'.

In 2019, I was a winner of the 2nd round of the national 'Teacher of the Year' competition, in the nomination 'Elementary Education', and a laureate during the 3rd round.

EdCamp speaker in different regions of Ukraine for two years.

Finalist in the area of case-style demonstration lessons.

Author of the teacher's guide 'Case technology in elementary school', Osnova Publishers. Winner of the regional pedagogical creativity contest-fair.

Author of academic articles about 'Case method as a modern learning technology'.

'Top-50' placement in the 2019 Global Teacher Prize Ukraine competition.

Concurrently, I worked as a methodologist for the Kostopil district methodological office of the Kostopil district state administration, supervising the work of elementary school teachers.

I was one of the first to pass the process of certification of teaching staff in accordance with the professional standard 'Teacher of elementary grades of a general secondary education institution'. For two years I served as an external expert of the State Education Quality Service of Ukraine.

The coronavirus pandemic adjusted the work of educational institutions. Again, I had to devote the lion's share of my free time to self-study. Education moved almost completely online. At this time, I created my own YouTube channel for working with educators.

In 2019, my startup to create the 'Bright' Educational Hub won in competition and I am still training teachers through this hub: workshops, quests, colloquia, events, upgrades, training, media work, must-haves.

In 2020-2021, I was a finalist of the national competition for teaching staff on the occasion of World Ecolabel Day.

I served as an ambassador of the 'FAST Superheroes' educational program. I also served as the regional coordinator of the interactive natural science competition 'Spikelet'. Ongoing webinar hosting on national educational platforms.

At the beginning of 2022, my students won 2nd place in the national contest-battle sponsored by UNICEF, called 'Let's sing, let's conquer the dirt'.

Currently, February 24, 2022, is the blackest day for me and my country.

The war has brought an adult gaze to the eyes of ten-year-old children. For two weeks, we prayed every day for peace in Ukraine, tried to 'shout out' to our colleagues in all countries that we are in a WAR.

In just two weeks, tired of bombardments, sirens day and night, horrified by what we saw, we returned to the educational process in anticipation of victory. And our cool team? The war stole it - some of the children were scattered all over the world, some from Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Sumy came to study in our classes. But now we are a friendly, purposeful, international team. Of course, we have many problems: lack of Internet, hiding in bomb shelters, sleepless nights, stress. However, education, like a phoenix, rises from the ashes of destroyed schools.

Teachers are educators, volunteers, medical personnel, psychologists. And we will win! We have truth, freedom, strength, reason!

In Black March, I received the pedagogical title 'Teacher-Methodologist'.

I am currently working on the development of interactive comic books for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students from the My Cool Vacation series. The first two books were supposed to be published in Kharkiv, unfortunately, the printing house is not functioning at the moment, so probably in the summer they will be available, but only in an online format. I'm still working, I don't plan to sit on my laurels!

