

**National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Annual Conference
September 2024**

Sue O'Connell
@SueOConnellMath
www.qualityteacherdevelopment.com

Agree or Disagree?

- 1) To be a good math teacher, you have to understand math content.
- 2) Most math teachers have a solid understanding of math standards.
- 3) Good mathematicians make good teachers of mathematics.
- 4) To be an effective teacher of mathematics, your beliefs about math must align with your math standards.

How do teacher beliefs impact their math teaching?

Belief: Math is done silently and individually.

- How does this belief impact teaching and learning?
- How might we help teachers reflect on the power of math talk in their classrooms?

Consider using the following poem to generate discussion and reflection:

Unnoticed

by Cathy Marks Krpan (2018)

I am sitting at the back of the class, *unnoticed*.
You instruct us at the front of the class, *unnoticed*.
Patterns and the rich meaning of mathematics pass us by, *unnoticed*.
I feel invisible in this sea of numbers and equations. I am drowning, *unnoticed*.

Discuss:

What are you picturing?

What are you feeling?

With just one question you would unlock my curiosity.
With just one question you would have me look up.
With just one question you would value who I am and what I think mathematically.
With just one question you would tell me that I can have my own mathematical thoughts and ideas.

Discuss:

What is a question that might matter for this student?

What do you notice? What do you see? What do you think? Do you agree?
I would venture a guess. I would take a risk to share my thoughts with you.
But for now, I sit. At the back of math class, drowning and *unnoticed*.

Discuss:

Could this ring true for any students you know?

How might the teachers' questions elevate the teaching in this math class?

How might you use this poem to prompt teacher reflection?

For more ideas and resources, see Sue's website: www.qualityteacherdevelopment.com

Join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MathinPractice>