

# THE RON CLARK STORY



<http://www.ronclarkacademy.com/>

Ron Clark has been a teacher since 1995. Originally, from North Carolina, he has taught in some of the most difficult schools in the country, including Harlem, NY. Since winning the 2001 Disney Teacher of the Year Award, he has spoken to teachers, PTAs, and school boards across the country.

Ron Clark wrote the book *The Essential 55*, which is a collection of the amazing effective rules that Ron Clark used to become an extraordinary teacher. Through trial and error, this teacher has distilled fifty-five ideas that have helped him take apathetic students in some of the country's most challenging areas and transform them into award-winning scholars.

Currently, Mr. Clark has opened The Ron Clark Academy, a school serving low-wealth students from inner-city Atlanta (opened in 2007). The privately-funded institution is truly unique for its innovative teaching methods and curriculum based on worldwide travel. Each year the students, grades 5 through 8, will apply what they've learned in class during international adventures, and by the time they graduate each child will have visited six of the seven continents. Teachers from around the world are invited to visit the Academy to learn more about the innovative and "out-of-the-box" methods for achieving student success.

In Ron Clark book *The Essential 55*, he lists what he considers to be the most important rules to incorporate in a classroom. Reflect on what you have seen so far in the movie and what you can relate to the most as a student or if you were a teacher.

<http://www.southmckeeel.com/uploads/importantfiles/2015-08-aug/55rules.pdf>

Select **10 of the 55** rules that you would incorporate and explain why you feel that rule would be important for an effective classroom.

## Your Important Rules

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**

### **MOVIE QUESTIONS:**

1. In the first scenes, what made Ron Clark want to start teaching?
2. Why did Ron Clark leave North Carolina and go to Harlem in New York City?
3. Who did Ron Clark want to meet in Harlem before he started teaching at Inner Harlem Elementary School?
4. What was his Rule #1?
5. What did Ron Clark do when the students trashed his classroom?
6. What playground game did the students teach Ron Clark?
7. How did Ron Clark motivate the students to watch his grammar lesson?
8. Discuss two other motivational methods that Ron Clark used in his classroom.
9. What did Ron Clark use to help the students learn about the Presidents of the United States?
10. Discuss one thing that Ron Clark did after school was out for the day to help some students learn.
11. What were the results of the state exam that Ron Clark's students took?
12. What are two things that you think really made a difference in Ron Clark's classroom that helped the students be very successful.
  - a.
  - b.

