On April 21,2016 I job shadowed Odilia Rodriguez. She is a first grade teacher at Summit Charter Lombardi in Porterville CA. I was able to interact with a great group of students. I chose to job shadow a teacher because, I love children and I wanted to see if I would be able to pursue a future in teaching. The way they participate and anticipate what will happen caught my attention.

I arrived to the school at 8:00 a.m. and officially introduced myself to Odilia. We began at 8:10 and as every student walked in, they thought I was a substitute. The students began reading as soon as they walked in. After reading for about 15 minutes, all the students went to the carpet and shared the word that was going to describe them for that day. Many of them chose respectful. After carpet time Ms.Rodriguez took the students up to the second floor for spanish class. She didn’t have the students for about an hour and so during that time I was asking her many different questions about teaching. After the students came back it was time for their break. After break they returned to the class and were disciplined for fighting over a basketball. Once the teacher was done disciplining the students, they had math time. They were learning less than, greater than and equal to. They used the special technique of using the alligator and the dot method. As I was walking around the class, helping students, I saw a lot of potential in each and every one of them. It was now lunch time, and every month twice a month, Ms.Rodriguez has Lunch Bunch. That is when, students who were participating and listening during the first hours of school, get to stay in class and eat with the teacher. After lunch the teacher helped with a sixth grade class, they were learning about items from the past. They learned how to get different pictures from the past and combine them to make a collage. Ms.Rodriguez had me make a collage myself that included different images and subtitles for the pictures. Once every student got the help that they needed her actual first grade class came back. The teacher had me read to the students and I immediately found the reason why I wanted to become a teacher. Everyone was interacting as I asked them questions about the book. When a student would say their response, they sounded so fluent and smart. I could see their future selves as they spoke. The day came to an end and I didn’t want to leave. The students all hugged me, wishing I would be able to go back and help again.

A few aspects that I learned was that teaching is a hard job. It’s a lot of work but a little pay. I’d have to put a lot of time and effort into teaching and what caught my attention is that it’s a whole day job. One major attribute that I liked was that everyday the job is different, sometimes you have students all day or others you see them for two hours of the day. I want to be able to help kids learn. I want to help them to become college and career ready. I want to build relationships, the students need to be taken care of mentally, physically, emotionally, I want to be able to let them know I care for them. Once that is set they’ll be ready to learn. One thing that I didn’t like is the schedule and how the teacher only saw her students for a total of 2 hours throughout the whole day.

After 8 hours of trying to handle a group of first graders I was exhausted. Thinking about it I wouldn’t want to pursue a career of teaching in the future. I started to feel this way when I was asking the teacher different questions about the job. Some advantages for teaching is that you have the same schedule as the children. I want to get my credentials, but at the same time I want to go for a masters degree. I can’t see myself as a teacher. I like kids but not enough to teach for the rest of my life. It would be hard for me to handle little kids.