

Interviewing Eleanor Lurring



On November 10, 2022, we conducted an interview with Eleanor Lurring, a gymnasium English teacher. Ms. Lurring was born in Belfast, North Ireland. After graduation in United Kingdom, she had moved to Spain, where she worked as a teacher and received a Cambridge Diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. She now lives in Czech Republic, works as an English teacher at gymnasium Nový PORG and specialises in preparing students for Cambridge examinations at all levels. Continue reading to learn more about the life of Eleanor Lurring. (*Credit... interview and <https://www.porg.cz/lurring-eleanor/>*)



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While the coffee machine was making noises in the background and people came to fill the kettle with a stream of water, we sat on the couch trying to keep our interview going. We didn't want to miss any of the engrossing and essential information that our conversation was packed with.

The interview had a peaceful atmosphere and we had begun lightly by asking: "Which activity relaxes you the most?" Ms. Lurring answered that she is most relaxed by a tough long hike or yoga.

When asked which country that she had visited had impressed her the most, she laughed and told us that "she was not so wildly travelled" and she had never left Europe. She, however, told us about her life in Spain. "The people, the food, the coastline..." she dreamed with a smile on her face.

When we came to the topic of her profession, we found out that she had decided to be a teacher "a long time ago", more precisely at university or a while after.

"Would you remain being a teacher if you could choose your profession again?" we had asked next and we instantly got a positive answer.

We were also interested in her most and least favourite school subject. She said that she had loved languages, such as English, Spanish and French. She hadn't liked a subject called home economics dealing with cooking and nutrition. "I didn't like it at all, and I failed it spectacularly when I was fifteen at the O – level. I got a U; it was so bad. I didn't like it."

We then asked Ms. Lurring what did she like the most about being an English teacher and she answered nearly immediately: **"Probably, if I feel that what I know is valued, and that people want to hear it and want to learn, then it's wonderful. If you feel that you're helping somebody, and they appreciate it."**

Later, we had moved to the topic of her birthplace. Considering that Ireland is a country full of grassy landscape, old villages and of course, whiskey and *Guinness*, everyone can be excited about something different. We had asked Ms. Lurring what she had liked the most about Belfast, where she was born. Thinking of her childhood she answered that growing up, she had appreciated the freedom she had had with her friends while playing on the beach or riding a bike.

"I'm not sure how safe it was...", she added then, laughing.

Midway through the interview the questions and answers became deeper and more personal.

"What is your worst fear?" Challenging question, however, Ms. Lurring told us she was most scared of something awful happening to her husband or daughter.

When asked what her biggest achievement in life was, she smiled proudly and said: "My daughter." Such a prideful and caring mother.

We were keen to know what kind of reader Ms. Lurring was, and which book she would read over and over again and never get tired of. She was thinking for a while, then answered: "Probably a book by Thomas Hardy, it's called *The Return of the Native*, because it's so complex. Various different characters." She then continued

saying that it was a lovely description of life on the moors a century ago and the people who had lived there. “It’s a beautiful book and a strong story,” she added.

When we got to the question asking Ms. Lurring what was the main lesson that she had learned in her life, there was a brief pause. “I don’t know, I think I’m still learning!” she laughed but then continued after a while: **“Maybe it’s that whatever you do, or whatever situation you’re in, even if you’re not happy in it, try to do it the best you can.”**

At last, we asked Ms. Lurring, a respectable and caring woman, to give some advice to our readers: **“There’s no point in fighting, saying I don’t want to be here and complaining. Get on with it and do the best you can, try to get whatever you can get out of it.”**

The interview was conducted without great complications and had a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. It was an intriguing experience to give an interview to such a skilful English teacher, who had grown up in Ireland and as well lived and worked in Spain. We have learned about numerous absorbing facts about her life and events she had experienced.