

Buffy vs Bella:
Raising Girls to Thrive
in a Vampire World



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(Presentation layout inspired by the
film credits of Woody Allen films)



1.

Let's start at the very beginning.
(A very good place to start.)

Think about the teenaged
girls in your life.

What are your hopes
& dreams for them?

What are your worries?



Children are hard-wired for struggle when they get here. When we hold that perfect little baby in our hands, our job is not to say, “I need to keep her perfect.” Our job is to say “You are imperfect and you are wired for struggle and you are worthy of love and belonging.”

~ Dr. Brene Brown



2.

*“Ms. McDiarmid, how can I
feel good about myself?”*

Learning how to feel good about oneself and lead a good life are surely as important as Algebra.

As is the case in Algebra,
there are things to be learned:
knowledge, attitudes and skills.

You don't become a successful
vampire-slayer through luck.



3.

Buffy vs Bella

This isn't English Lit class so
I won't explore the literary merits
of these pop culture texts...

{although I do have plenty to say
about the matter...}

Why Buffy and Bella?

The importance of **metaphor**
as a way to build a bridge
from students to your message.

{Also because I think these pop
culture icons are compelling.}

Who is Buffy?

- Buffy the Vampire Slayer was an American television series that aired from 1997 until 2003.
- The series was created by writer-director Joss Whedon.
- The protagonist of the show is Buffy Summers; she is a high school student who moves to Sunnydale after burning down her high school gym.
- Buffy hopes to start her life over and escape her Slayer duties but Rupert Giles, her new Watcher, reminds her of her responsibilities to fight evil and begins to train her.
- Buffy makes two friends, Xander Harris and Willow Rosenberg, who help her fight evil through the series.
- In spite of her mission to kill vampires, Buffy falls in love with Angel - a vampire with a soul.

Who is Bella?

- Twilight is a series of four vampire-themed fantasy romance novels by American author Stephenie Meyer.
- The novels have been made into films; all but one have been released as of march 2012.
- Bella Swan moves from Phoenix, Arizona to live with her father in Forks, Washington.
- Bella finds herself attracted to student Edward Cullen. Eventually, Bella learns that Edward is a vampire who drinks animal blood rather than human blood. They fall in love.
- Bella's best friend is Jacob Black who becomes a werewolf. Jacob is also in love with Bella.
- In the first novel, a vampire named James hunts Bella. Edward and the other Cullens defend her.

Buffy vs Bella video on You Tube

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNGhgoc_sqg&feature=related

Let's compare them.

Buffy

- Buffy's vampire slaying was a calling. It was not what she chose; it chose her.
- She has mad skills and superhuman strength but she needs to learn discipline from Giles, her Watcher.
- Although she sometimes chafed against her responsibilities, she saved the world again and again and again.
- She dies twice saving the world.
- She kills her boyfriend to save the world.
- She's a badass but still definitely still a girl.
- Her friends support her, assist her and challenge her.
- Buffy is close to her mother and sister Dawn.

Bella

- Bella is famous for being clumsy and gets hurt frequently.
- When Edward breaks up with her and leaves town, Bella become reckless and puts herself in danger.
- Bella has no sustained hobbies or interests outside of Edward, the Cullen family and Jacob Black.
- Bella has no close girlfriends.
- Bella makes a deal with Edward; she will marry him only if he will turn her into a vampire. However, she doesn't want to wait long because she doesn't want to look older than Edward. (He was born in 1901.)
- Bella's gift is that other people's powers have no effect on her. She turns into a vampire with relative ease. Also, she gives birth to a child who is half human, half vampire.

The Twilight series is the more recent of these two series... & it is definitely a step backwards.

Is this a pattern? Should we be concerned?

One time I smashed my
face into a keyboard
and accidentally wrote
the fifth Twilight book.



4.

The difference between
Buffy and Bella is...

AGENCY

the capacity, condition, or state of
acting or of exerting power

something that produces or is
capable of producing an effect

a means or instrument by which a
guiding intelligence achieves a result

Bella needs to be rescued.
Buffy saves the world.

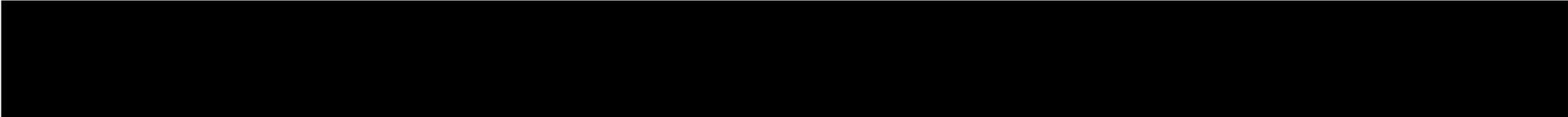
(In both cases, this is a pattern.)

So how does that happen?

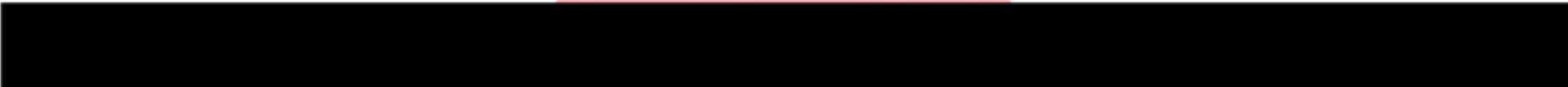
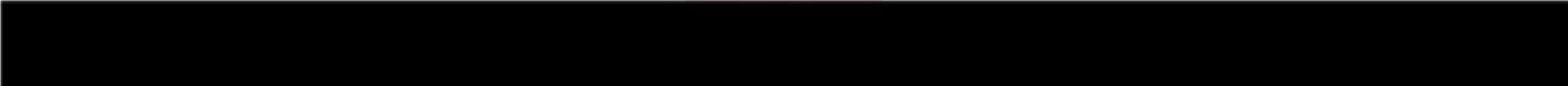
Why does one girl recognize her own
power and another does not?



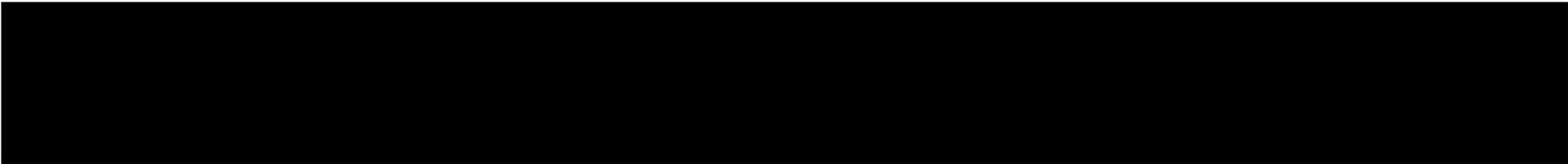
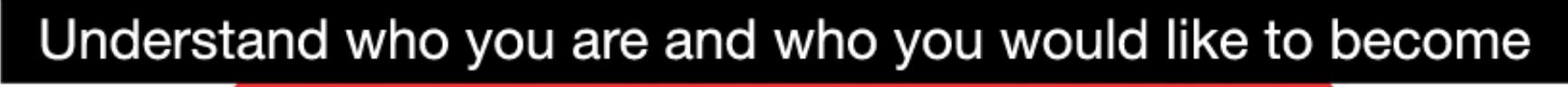
5.



The Vampire Slayer's Hierarchy of Needs



Understand who you are and who you would like to become



Who am I?

(This is not a small question.)



Passions

Skills

Appearance

Fears

Dreams

Friends

Feelings

Values

Family

Relationships

Preferences

Opinions

Style

Identity

Knowing oneself can be particularly challenging for TCKs and global nomads.

Getting to knowing yourself

- Experimenting, exploring, trying things out
- Risk-taking
- Learning from mistakes
- Being honest
- Reflecting
- Thinking analytically about ones life
- Reading fiction and non-fiction
- Using instruments such as MBTI
- Having role models who are really living and figuring things out as they go

Buffy Wisdom



“Okay, I'm cookie dough. I'm not done baking. I'm not finished becoming whatever the hell it is I'm gonna turn out to be. I make it through this, and the next thing, and the next thing, and... maybe one day I turn around and realize I'm ready. I'm cookies. And then, you know, if I want someone to eat - or enjoy warm, delicious cookie me, then, that's fine. That'll be then. When I'm done.” ~ Buffy, Season 7



6.



The Vampire Slayer's Hierarchy of Needs

Recognize that you are worthy of love, respect and belonging

Understand who you are and who you would like to become



~ I am enough ~



Don't believe everything you think.



Bye bye, Perfect.
Hello, Courage.

What if you posted photos
of yourself doing something
cool instead of images
of complete strangers?



A Confidence Manifesto for Girls

By Monna McDiarmid

1. Think of a person who loves you unconditionally. Love yourself like that.
2. Don't compare yourself to others.
3. Flex your super power.
4. Be vulnerable.
5. Treat your body with respect.
6. Try new activities.
7. Be careful with your words.
8. Stand for something.
9. Dream big.
10. Hang out with people who like and inspire you.
11. Practice joy.
12. Stand up for yourself.



Buffy Wisdom:
“I’m not just some crazy person.
I’m the Slayer.” ~ Buffy, Season 1



7.



The Vampire Slayer's Hierarchy of Needs

Find the people who love you and create a place you belong

Recognize that you are worthy of love, respect and belonging

Understand who you are and who you would like to become

The problem with the cool kids...

1. They are not always friends with you for the right reasons.
2. They are not always actually friends.
3. Hanging out with these kids may prevent you from finding the people who will care about you, challenge you and help you become your best self.

Actual cool kids aren't that concerned
with the question of who is cool.
{This is equally true of cool adults.}

“Um... I think I chose the wrong group of girls to be friends with. I should have been more cautious and taken more time to choose. Now things are in a big mess.”

~ Grade 10 girl who had just moved to a new country and school.

Finding her tribe

Seth Godin defines tribe as “a group of people connected to one another, connected to a leader, and connected to an idea.”

All it takes for a tribe to form, Godin writes, “is a shared interest and a way to communicate.”

Social websites break down geographic barriers. A tribe can be based in your hometown or anywhere in the world.

Finding my Buffy vs Bella tribe



 **Monna McDiarmid**
21 December 2011 

Buffy the Vampire Slayer VS Bella from Twilight.
Please comment.

Like · Comment · Share  40

“Teenagers hear, on average, 5
negative comments for every
positive comment.”

~ Michael Grose



Buffy Wisdom

“In every generation, one slayer is born... because a bunch of men who died thousands of years ago made up that rule. They were powerful men. This woman is more powerful than all of them combined.”

~ Buffy, in reference to Willow, Season 7



8.



The Vampire Slayer's Hierarchy of Needs

Learn. Grow. Serve your purpose

Find the people who love you and create a place you belong

Recognize that you are worthy of love, respect and belonging

Understand who you are and who you would like to become

Bella is motivated by her own desires.

Buffy balances what she wants
with her purpose.

How do we find our purpose?



Name your superpower.

Three Questions

1. What are you passionate about?
2. What are your skills?
3. What are your priorities?

~ from Jane Good, Career Counseling Services @
Queen's University

Sparks: How Youth Thrive

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqzUHcW58Us>

Peter Benson asks, “What is your spark?”

SPARK is something about you
that brings you Joy & ENERGY



Here is Maria's spark...







Serving your purpose demands action.

Learn.

Improve.

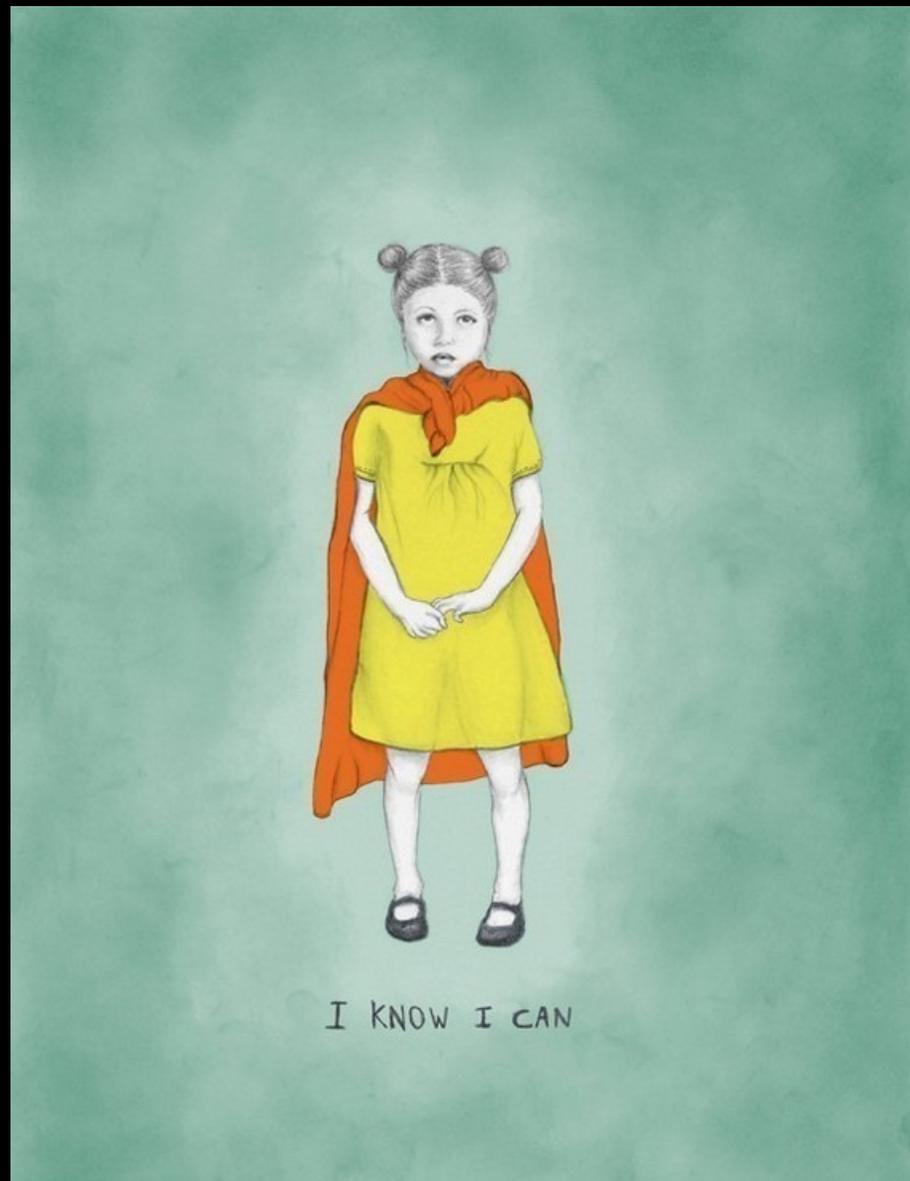
Master.

Act.

Fulfill.

Manifest.

Slay that vampire!



Print by Shira Sela

~ Beyond serving her purpose ~

Connecting with others





Gratitude 365, 2012

Thumbnails | Detail | Map | 1 comment

Slideshow



Share



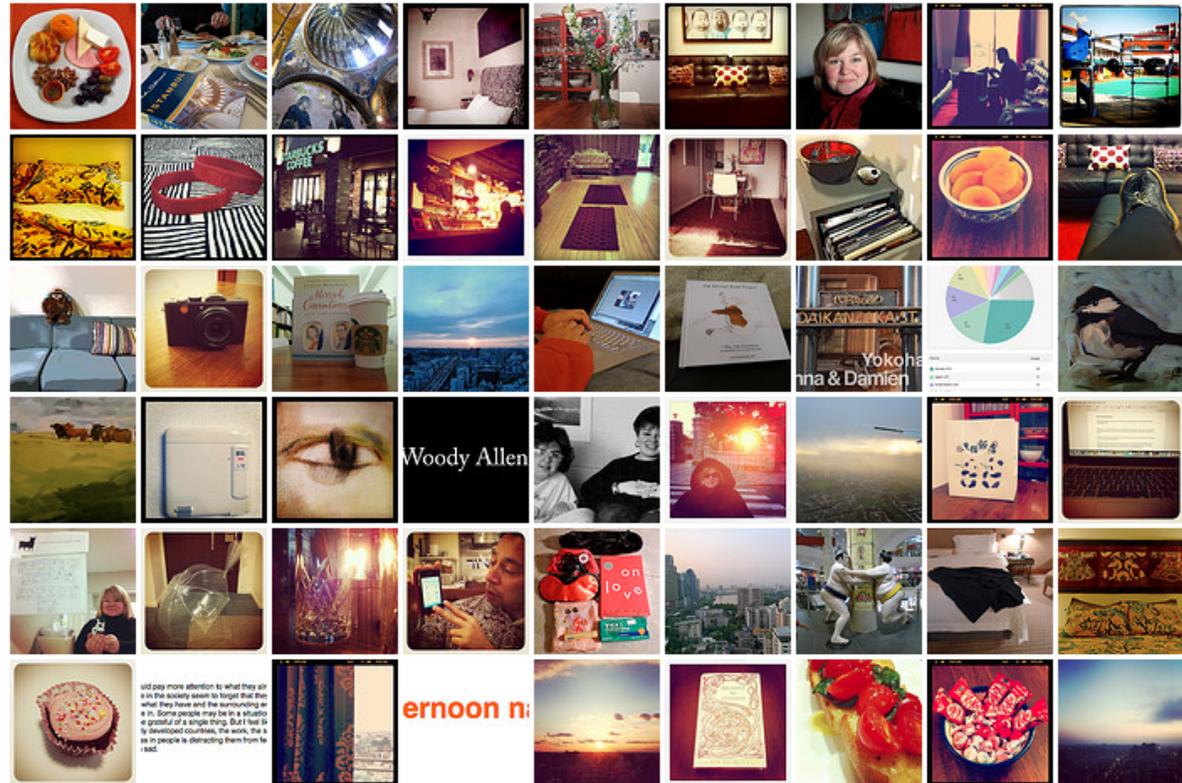
Each day, I post a photograph & description of one thing for which I feel grateful.

For what are you grateful today?

MonnaMcDiarmid.com

80 photos | 723 views | [Add a comment?](#)

items are from between 10 Sep 2011 & 22 Mar 2012.



Practicing gratitude every day @

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/monnamcd/sets/72157628681701343/>

“I'm beyond tired. I'm beyond scared. I'm standing on the mouth of hell, and it's going to swallow me whole. And it'll choke on me. We're not ready? They're not ready. They think we're gonna wait for the end to come, like we always do. I'm done waiting. They want an apocalypse? Oh, we'll give 'em one. Anyone else who wants to run... do it now. Because we just became an army. We just declared war. From now on we won't just face our worst fears, we will seek them out. We will find them and cut out their hearts one by one until the First shows itself for what it really is. And I'll kill it myself. There's only one thing on this earth more powerful than evil. And that's us. Any questions?”

~ Buffy, Season 7

Buffy Wisdom





9.

How we can help our girls

- Listen carefully when she talks
- Ask questions
- Take her concerns seriously
- Encourage her to try new things
- Give authentic praise
- Create the kind of home that your daughter's friends want to hang out in
- Become a role model by living a rich life & taking risks
- Be positive about our own life - and hers



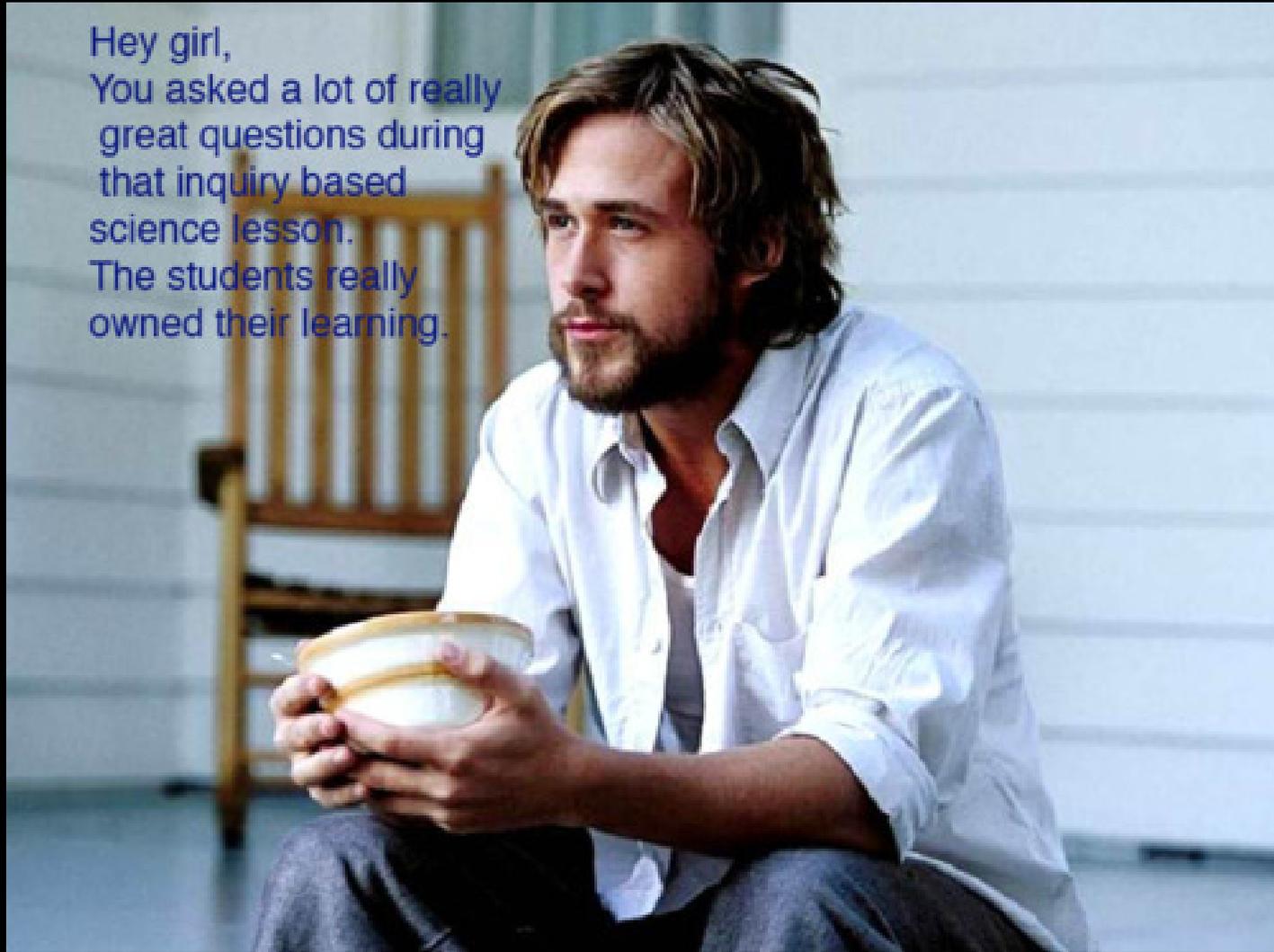
10.

Have you heard of the blog “Hey Girl”
@ HeyGirlTeacher.com?

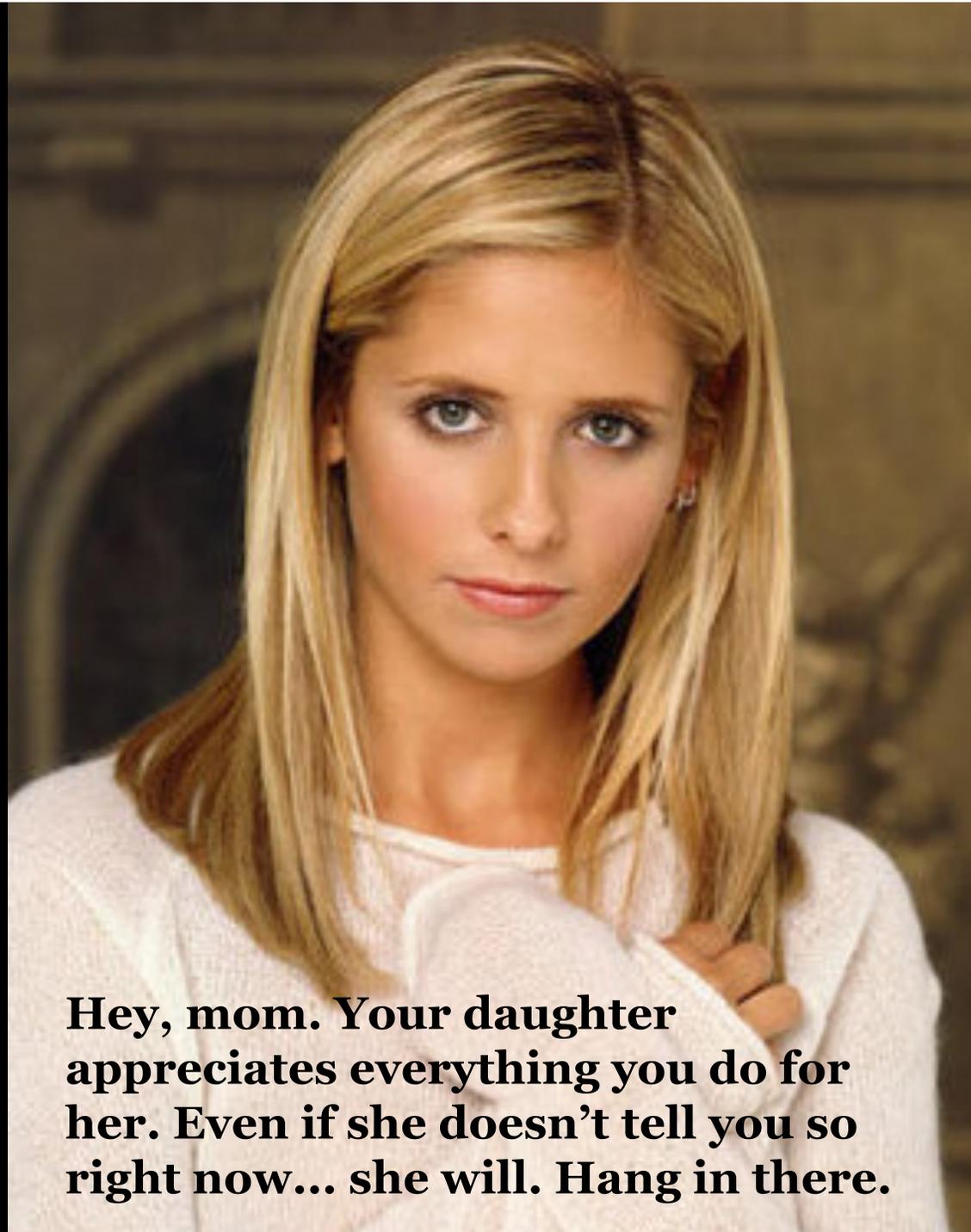


Hey girl,
Teaching is hard.
Everything is going to be okay.

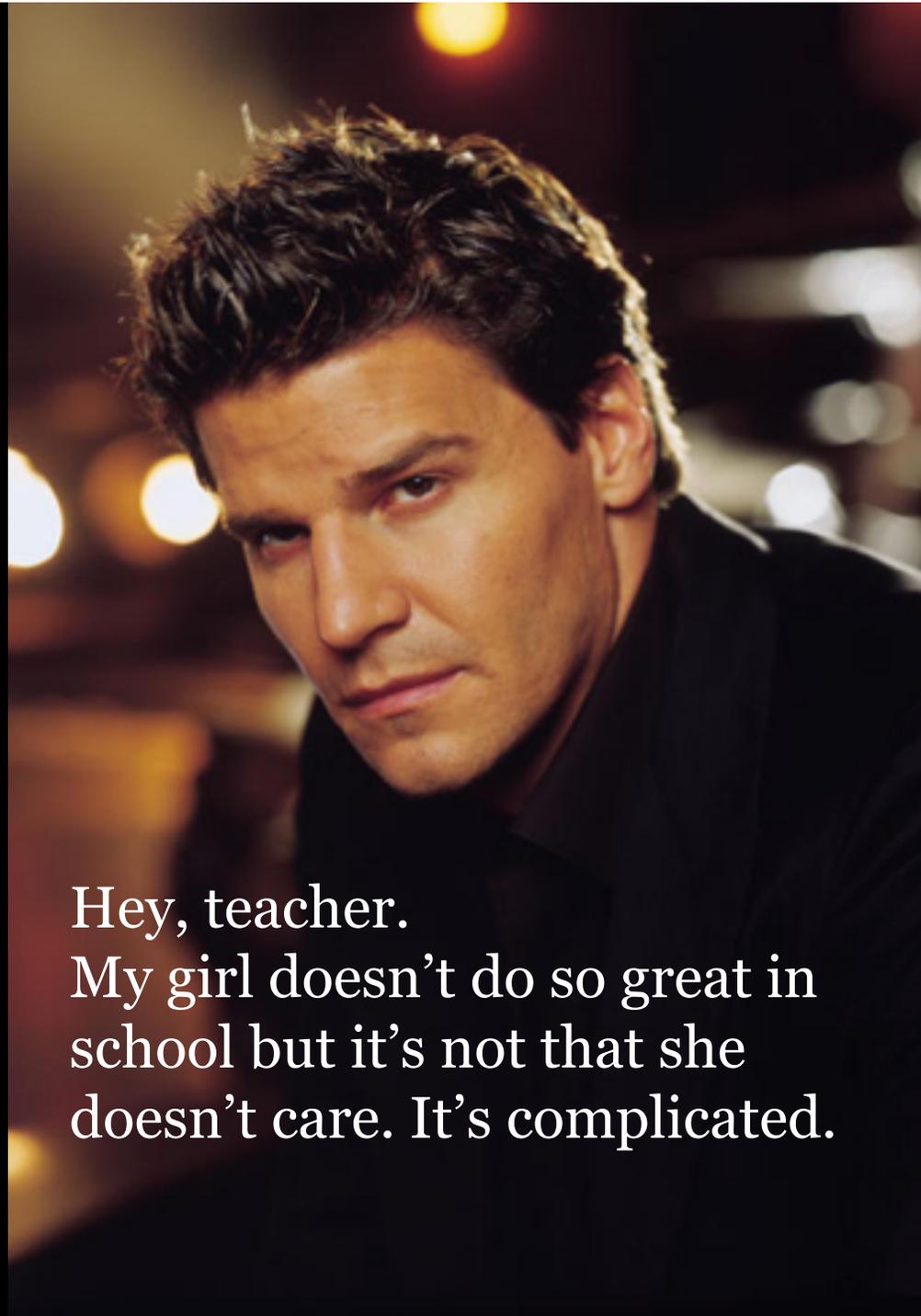
Hey girl,
You asked a lot of really
great questions during
that inquiry based
science lesson.
The students really
owned their learning.



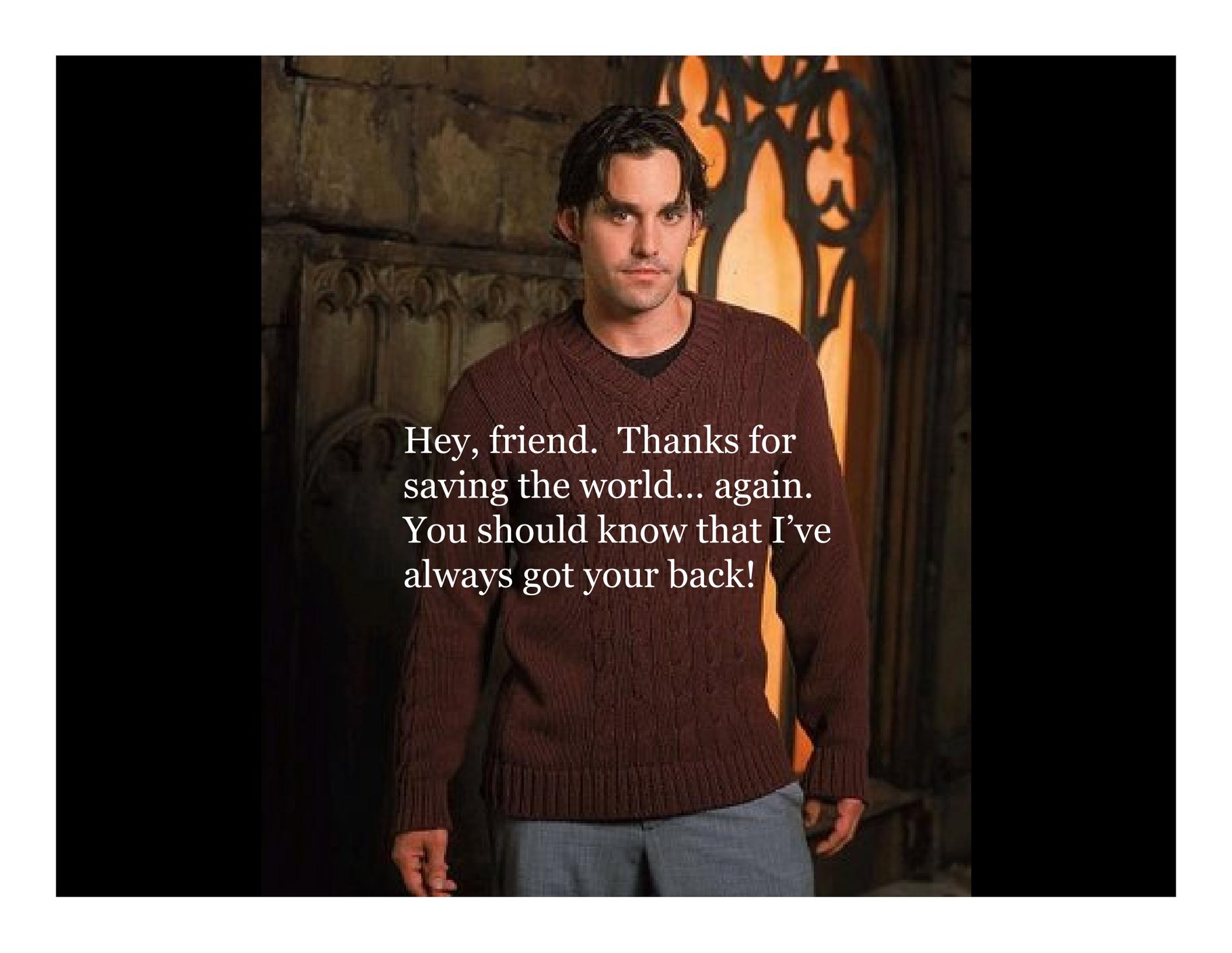
Variations on the Theme:
Hey Buffy and Bella!



Hey, mom. Your daughter appreciates everything you do for her. Even if she doesn't tell you so right now... she will. Hang in there.



Hey, teacher.
My girl doesn't do so great in
school but it's not that she
doesn't care. It's complicated.

A man with dark hair and a slight beard, wearing a dark brown V-neck sweater and light blue jeans, stands in a stone archway. The background is a stone wall with a decorative, arched opening behind him. The lighting is dramatic, with a warm glow from the archway behind him.

Hey, friend. Thanks for
saving the world... again.
You should know that I've
always got your back!



Hey mom & dad. I know I'm getting straight A's but I need some help with a little substance abuse problem.

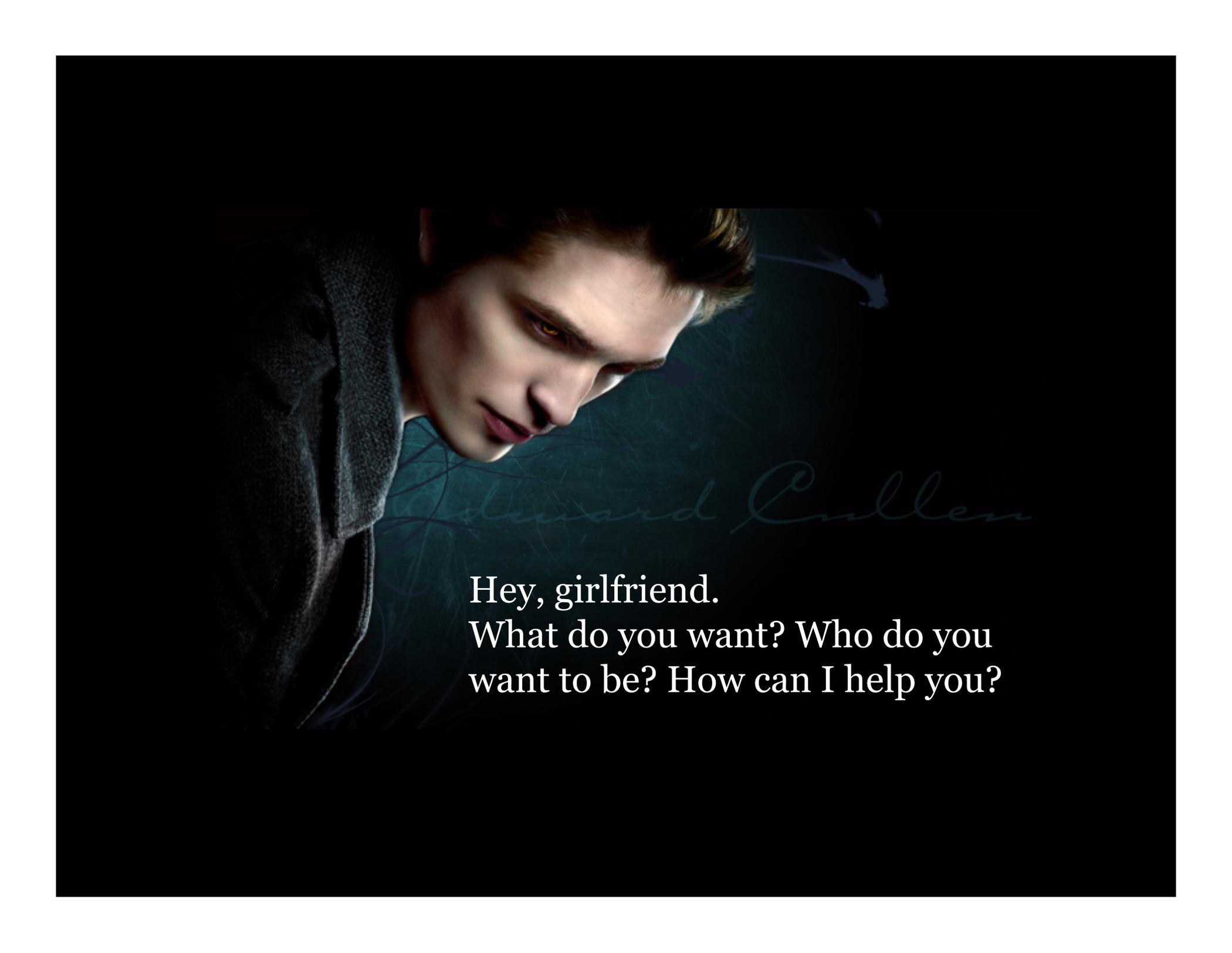
A promotional image for the TV show Buffy the Vampire Slayer. It features a close-up portrait of Buffy Summers, played by Sarah Michelle Gellar. She has long, straight blonde hair and is wearing a black, sleeveless top. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral, slightly somber expression. The background is a dark, moody scene with bare, brown branches and a blueish-grey sky. In the top right corner, the word "Buffy" is written in a large, stylized, gothic font, with "the vampire slayer" written in a smaller, simpler font underneath it.

Buffy
the vampire slayer

Hey, counselor. It really helps when you say hello and ask me how I'm doing.... I have some **SERIOUSLY** bad days!



Hey, coach! I know I'm a little clumsy but ask me to try out for your team anyway.

A close-up, low-angle portrait of Edward Cullen from the Twilight series. He is looking down and to the right with a serious expression. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face against a dark background. The name "Edward Cullen" is written in a faint, cursive script across the middle of the image.

Hey, girlfriend.
What do you want? Who do you
want to be? How can I help you?



Hey, mom. Let's not spend so much time talking about boys. I need to develop some other interests.

Further Buffy vs Bella Reading

- Reasoning With Vampires

<http://reasoningwithvampires.tumblr.com/>

- Risk the pain. It is your nature: Buffy's character development over the series

<http://stormwreath.livejournal.com/57723.html>

- Buffy vs Edward: Twilight Remixed

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZwM3GvaTRM>

Thinkers who influenced this presentation

1. Brene Brown

TEDx Talk: The Power of Vulnerability

http://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability.html

+ blog @ www.ordinarycourage.com

2. Will Keim

The Education of Character: Lessons for Beginners (book)

3. Peter Benson

TED x Talk - Sparks: How Youth Thrive

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqzUHcW58Us>

4. Michael Grose

Thriving: Raising exceptional kids with confidence, character and resilience (book)

easy

STAPLES

EN GROS