**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**The Jarman Papers**

**UNDERSTANDING**

Though I teach with the skill

Of the finest teachers

And have not understanding,

I am become only a clever speaker and charming entertainer,

And though I understand all techniques and all methods, And though I have much training

So that I feel competent,

But have no understanding of the way my pupils think,

It is not enough.

And if I spend many hours in lesson preparation,

And become tense and nervous with the strain,

But have no understanding

Of the personal problems of my pupils,

It is still not enough.

The understanding teacher is very patient, very kind;

Is not shocked when young people

Bring him their confidences;

Does not gossipy Is not easily discouraged.

Does not behave himself in ways that are unworthy,

But is at all times a living example to his student

Of the good way of life of which he speaks.

Understanding never fails.

But whether there be materials, they shall become obsolete;

Whether there be methods, they shall become outmoded;

Whether there be techniques, they shall be abandoned;

For we know only a little

And can pass on to our children only a little;

But when we have understanding, then all our efforts become creative

And our influence will live for ever in the lives of our pupils.

When I was a child, I spoke with immaturity,

My emotions were uncontrolled

And I behaved childishly.

But now that I am an adult,

I must face life as it is

With courage and with understanding,

And now abideth skill, devotion, understanding,

These three,

and the greatest of these is understanding.

Eloise B. Rivinius

(1903-1972)



Paraphrased from

1 Corinthians 13:11