

Warmth and Friendliness that Hits you Like a Brick

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In the summer of 1975 I was in English 102 and we were assigned to write a short paper using a simile. A class mate, Joyce M., wrote about a person she knew at the school library where she had a part time job. She wrote that this person greeted everyone who came in with warmth and friendliness that hit you like a brick. The instructor read her paper to the class as an example of the wrong way to say something and the improper use of a simile. It was humorous. It turns out that her description may have been perfect. That incident always stayed in my mind and years later I would encounter people whose warmth and friendliness hit me like a brick. These people were obnoxiously nice. I think of Joyce in that classroom every time this occurs. It occurs to me that we all encounter such people. Such people are hard to avoid because they are determined to be nice to you. Maybe someday medical science will find a cure.