Susan Sontag famously wrote, “Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.” In the past fifteen years, chronic illness and medical emergencies have obliged me to frequently use the other passport. These “travels” have profoundly affected my teaching, quite often for the better. In this talk I’ll share some stories and some thoughts about communication, compassion, building community, and promoting responsibility in the mathematics classroom. I’ll also touch on some topics in quantitative reasoning and liberal arts mathematics. (Received September 20, 2016)