



## Teaching with Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach

*Sam M. Intrator (Editor) , Megan Scribner (Editor)*

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**Teaching with Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach** Sam M. Intrator (Editor) , Megan Scribner (Editor)

**Reclaim Your Fire** "Teaching with Fire is a glorious collection of the poetry that has restored the faith of teachers in the highest, most transcendent values of their work with children....Those who want us to believe that teaching is a technocratic and robotic skill devoid of art or joy or beauty need to read this powerful collection. So, for that matter, do we all."

?Jonathan Kozol, author of *Amazing Grace* and *Savage Inequalities*

"When reasoned argument fails, poetry helps us make sense of life. A few well-chosen images, the spinning together of words creates a way of seeing where we came from and lights up possibilities for where we might be going....Dip in, read, and ponder; share with others. It's inspiration in the very best sense."

?Deborah Meier, co-principal of The Mission Hill School, Boston and founder of a network of schools in East Harlem, New York

"In the Confucian tradition it is said that the mark of a golden era is that children are the most important members of the society and teaching is the most revered profession. Our journey to that ideal may be a long one, but it is books like this that will sustain us - for who are we all at our best save teachers, and who matters more to us than the children?"

?Peter M. Senge, founding chair, SoL (Society for Organizational Learning) and author of *The Fifth Discipline*

Those of us who care about the young and their education must find ways to remember what teaching and learning are really about. We must find ways to keep our hearts alive as we serve our students. Poetry has the power to keep us vital and focused on what really matters in life and in schooling. *Teaching with Fire* is a wonderful collection of eighty-eight poems from such well-loved poets as Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Billy Collins, Emily Dickinson, and Pablo Neruda. Each of these evocative poems is accompanied by a brief story from a teacher explaining the significance of the poem in his or her life's work. This beautiful book also includes an essay that describes how poetry can be used to grow both personally and professionally.

*Teaching With Fire* was written in partnership with the Center for Teacher Formation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Royalties from this book will be used to fund scholarship opportunities for teachers to grow and learn.

## Teaching with Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach Details

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## **From Reader Review Teaching with Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach for online ebook**

### **NTE says**

Why did I stop reading poetry regularly, when I love it so much? I forget, sometimes, but then I read something like this, with so many good poems, and it makes me want to cry, thinking that I'll never be able to write like that.

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### **Michelle says**

The premise was cool...poems about teaching and reflections (kind of Americans' Favorite Poems-style), but I'm picky about my poems and for me, the selection just didn't deliver. There were a couple of winners though.

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### **Ted Mallory says**

Nikki Giovanni, Langston Hugh's, Wallace Stevens, Billy Collins, thank God for poets, poems, & poetry. Thank teachers for helping us to read poets. Thank God for teachers.

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### **Kammera says**

This has been a great pick-me-up over the years for me. The book contains various poems that teachers have contributed. And their thoughts and reasons why each poem resonates for them really hit home for me. Not an overwhelming book, but a gritty and realistic look at how teachers really feel as they impact and interact with children on a daily basis. The poems are really carefully chosen. You won't go wrong with this book.

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### **Lis says**

I love this collection of poetry and insight into the classroom. Inspirational even for those out of academia. I try to keep this one at arm's length.

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### **Dioscita says**

I was given this book by my principal and, unfortunately, blew it off because she never impressed me as a person who had her finger on the pulse of ... well ... anything. Realizing now who helped bring this book about *may* just incite me to pick it up again. For now, the 2 stars remain.

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**Lorry Perez says**

Should be on every teachers bookshelf.

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**Jordan Stephens says**

Found this on a friend's desk at work. It's nice little selection of poetry intended to inspire educators. Each poem is book ended by essays or letters that usually touch on the poem. I found myself more interested in the poems, so I would catch myself skipping some of essays.

I might update this review tomorrow by listing some of my favorite poems selected. The book is back on his desk and I don't have it with me. However, the poem that has stuck with me the most was "I care and I am willing to serve" by Marian Wright Edelman.

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**Louise Hull says**

My once touchstone book!

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**Tasha says**

What an excellent collection of poetry. Includes greats from Billy Collins, ee cummings, Mary Oliver and Wislawa Szymborska. Not only did it remind me of some of my favorite poems I had forgotten about, but it also exposed me to some great new works, including "I Care and I'm Willing to Serve" by Marian Wright Edelman.

One of the teachers quotes poet Lucille Clifton: "Every pair of eyes facing you has probably experienced something you could not endure."

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**Paula says**

Some of the poems in here are a bit hokey, but, for the most part, many are familiar and, in a strange way, inspiring (especially those that are taken a bit out of context). The personal stories that accompany each poem really do make the difference in this collection, though. I just wish that some of the more blatant editing oversights had been corrected.

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**Sheila says**

inspiring for teachers to read a bit at a time

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**Jaynie says**

LOVED IT

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**Todd says**

Really interesting anthology of poems selected because of what they say to classroom teachers. Cool concept.

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**Joel says**

Well, the poems were good. But they aren't original to this book so I'm judging it based on its ~~ever~~ original content which, to me, after reading the first several entries, seemed to be only slight variations on the same theme of "we're teachers, students need pity, we need encouragement." If that's your thing this book is for you but it's not for me. Thanks anyway.

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