



The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life

By Parker J. Palmer



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"This book is for teachers who have good days and bad -- and whose bad days bring the suffering that comes only from something one loves. It is for teachers who refuse to harden their hearts, because they love learners, learning, and the teaching life."

- Parker J. Palmer [from the Introduction]

Teachers choose their vocation for reasons of the heart, because they care deeply about their students and about their subject. But the demands of teaching cause too many educators to lose heart. Is it possible to take heart in teaching once more so that we can continue to do what good teachers always do -- give heart to our students?

In *The Courage to Teach*, Parker Palmer takes teachers on an inner journey toward reconnecting with their vocation and their students -- and recovering their passion for one of the most difficult and important of human endeavors.

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The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life By Parker J. Palmer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #81251 in Books
- Brand: Jossey-Bass
- Published on: 1997-11-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.28" h x .85" w x 6.28" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

As a spiritually inspirational book for teachers, *The Courage to Teach* is one of the best. The premise is concise and unarguable: good teaching comes from the identity and the integrity of the teacher. Teachers are encouraged to turn their inquiring minds inward--developing a deeper understanding of what it means to fulfill the spiritual calling of teaching. Good teachers share one trait, says author Parker Palmer, they are able to weave a complex web of connections among themselves, their subjects, and their students, so that students can learn to weave a world for themselves. The connections made by good teachers are held not in their methods but in their hearts--the place where intellect and emotion and spirit and will converge in the human self. --*Gail Hudson*

From Library Journal

Palmer (*To Know as We Are Known*, HarperCollins, 1993) is a senior adviser at the Fetzer Institute and has taught at Beloit College and Georgetown University. He discusses the inner life of the dedicated teacher and how that life shapes teaching and learning. According to Palmer, "Teaching, like any truly human activity, emerges from one's inwardness, for better or worse." In this book, he explores the inner landscape of the teaching self, and to understand that landscape more fully, he discusses three important paths that must be taken--intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. Recommended for all teachers, this book would be a valuable addition to professional and teacher education collections. --Barbara S. Meagher, Central Connecticut State Univ., New Britain

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Review

"This is the best education book I've read in a long time. Palmer provides a powerful argument for the need to move from our over-reliance on technique toward a learning environment that both honors and truly develops the deepest human capacities in children and teachers. It's about time we remember that it's the person within the teacher that matters most in education, and Palmer makes the case eloquently." (Teacher Magazine)

"If teaching is just a chore, and you are content to just 'do chores,' this book is not for you. You will be challenged to go beyond the minimum and pursue excellence. But rather than approaching teaching as something we just tolerate, Parker Palmer holds out the promise of it being something we can celebrate." (Academy of Management Review)

"Reading this book will enrich the life of any teacher who loves teaching." (Pro Rege)

"Parker Palmer is a teacher's teacher, and it is when he writes as a teacher that this book is a remarkably inspiring, almost religious companion for anyone who has taught or might be thinking of about teaching as a vocational journey for life.... This book can change your life if you are a teacher." (Religious Education)

"Through a series of vignettes, Palmer encourages reflection, and strives to bolster readers' initiative and confidence. *The Courage to Teach* is an awakening, and a gentle, directive touch that reaches out to teachers of all levels and ages." (Childhood Education)

"To go on this journey with Parker Palmer into the uncharted territory of 'the self' in teaching is not only to experience the joy of viewing teaching from a thrilling new perspective. It is also to be in the presence of a

great teacher who, by sharing himself so openly and honestly, engages us in the very kind of teaching he so eloquently describes." (Russell Edgerton, director of educational programs, Pew Charitable Trusts, and past president, American Association for Higher Education)

"A profoundly moving, utterly passionate, and inspired articulation of the call to, and the pain and joy of, teaching. It is must reading for any and every teacher, at any level." (Jon Kabat-Zinn, author, *Wherever You Go, There You Are*, and coauthor, *Everyday Blessings*)

"This book is good news—not just for classroom teachers and educators, but for all of us who are committed to the healing of our world." (Joanna Macy, author, *World As Lover, World As Self*)

"Parker Palmer has taught me more about learning and teaching than anyone else. *The Courage to Teach* is for all of us—leaders, public officials, counselors, as well as teachers. It compassionately and insistently asks us to recognize that our capacity to do good work springs from our recognition of who we are." (Margaret J. Wheatley, author, *Leadership and the New Science*, and coauthor, *A Simpler Way*)

"This is a profoundly satisfying feast of a book—written with a rare mix of elegance and rigor, passion and precision—a gift to all who love teaching and learning." (Diana Chapman Walsh, president, Wellesley College)

"Evokes the heart of what teachers really do, and does so in a vivid, compelling, and soulful way." (Robert Coles, University Health Services, Harvard University)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amanda Grant:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can understand everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life* will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or ideal book with you?

Alan Robert:

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Mikel Davis:

On this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list will be The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Wilda Baeza:

A lot of people said that they feel fed up when they reading a e-book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the particular book The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life to make your reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading skill is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the idea about book and reading through especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to open up a book and go through it. Beside that the book The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life can to be your friend when you're sense alone and confuse in what must you're doing of their time.

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