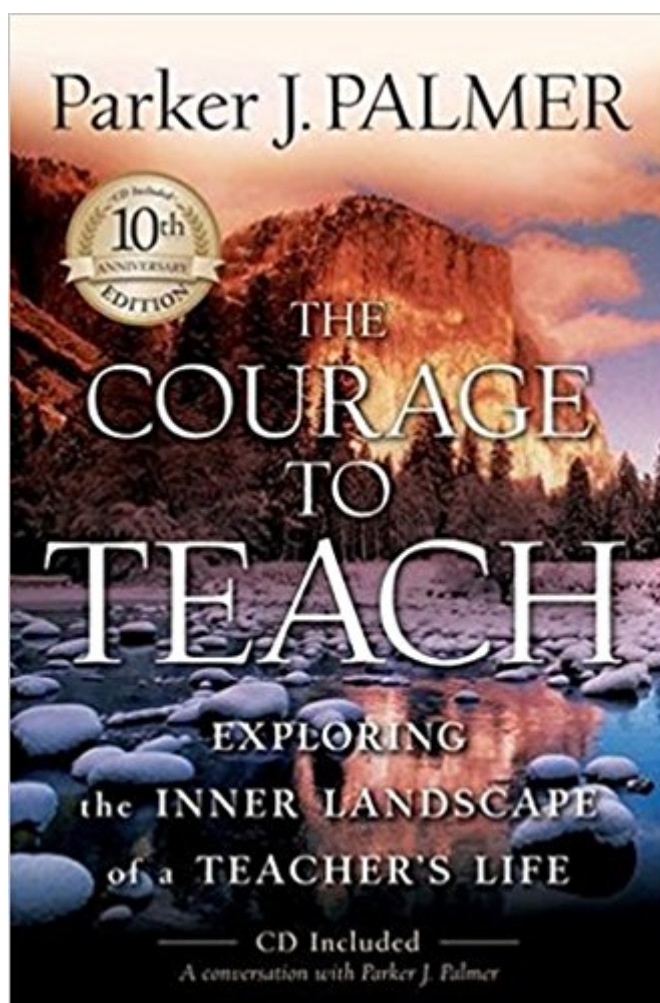


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The Courage To Teach: Exploring The Inner Landscape Of A Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

"This book is for teachers who have good days and bad days 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] For many years, Parker Palmer has worked on behalf of teachers and others who choose their vocations for reasons of the heart but may lose heart because of the troubled, sometimes toxic systems in which they work. Hundreds of thousands of readers have benefited from his approach in *THE COURAGE TO TEACH*, which takes teachers on an inner journey toward reconnecting with themselves, their students, their colleagues, and their vocations, and reclaiming their passion for one of the most challenging and important of human endeavors. This book builds on a simple premise: good teaching cannot be reduced to technique but is rooted in the identity and integrity of the teacher. Good teaching takes myriad forms but good teachers share one trait: they are authentically present in the classroom, in community with their students and their subject. They possess "a capacity for connectedness" and are able to weave a complex web of connections between themselves, their subjects, and their students, helping their students 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, emotion, spirit, and will converge in the human self—supported by the community that emerges among us when we choose to live authentic lives. **BONUS:** Includes an audio CD featuring a 45-minute conversation between Parker Palmer and his colleagues, Marcy Jackson and Estrus Tucker from the Center for Courage & Renewal. They reflect on what they have learned from working with thousands of teachers in their "Courage to Teach" program (www.CourageRenewal.org) and with others who yearn for greater integrity in their professional lives. Note: CD-ROM/DVD and other supplementary materials are not included as part of eBook file.

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Customer Reviews

"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 of *Wherever You Go, There You Are* For nearly forty years, Parker Palmer has worked on behalf of teachers and others who choose vocations for reasons of the heart but may lose heart because of the troubled, sometimes toxic systems in which they work. Hundreds of thousands of readers have benefited from *The Courage to Teach*, which takes teachers on an inner journey toward reconnecting with themselves, their students, and their colleagues, and toward reclaiming vocational passion. *The Courage to Teach* builds on a simple premise: good teaching cannot be reduced to technique but is rooted in the identity and integrity of the teacher. Good teaching takes myriad forms but good teachers share one trait: they are authentically present in the classroom, deeply connected with their students and their subject. These connections are held in the teacher's heart; the place where intellect, emotion, spirit, and converge in the human self. Good teachers weave a life-giving web between themselves, their subjects, and their students, helping their students learn how to weave a world for themselves. In a new Foreword and Afterword to this tenth anniversary edition, Parker Palmer reflects on a decade of movement-building during which he and his colleagues at the Center for Courage & Renewal have helped thousands of teachers and others restore identity and integrity to professional life. On the accompanying audio CD, Parker and his colleagues, Marcy Jackson, and Estrus Tucker, talk about the Center's on-the-ground work and share their hopes for this movement toward human wholeness and community.

Celebrating 10 Years of *The Courage to Teach* I am a teacher at heart, and there are moments in the classroom when I can hardly hold the joy. . . . But at other moments, the classroom is so lifeless or painful or confused — and I am so powerless to do anything about it — that my claim to be a teacher seems a transparent sham. . . . If you are a teacher who never has bad days, or who has them but does not care, this book is not for you. 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. • From the Introduction Today, ten years after the publication of *The Courage to Teach*, I am more hopeful than ever about the potential for education reform because this book has helped me meet so many people who care passionately about teaching and learning and are willing to act on their passion. "Exploring the inner landscape of a teacher's life" allows us to return, grounded and renewed, to the outer landscape of our lives. Having taken heart in the work to which we are called, we can give heart once again to our students, our colleagues, our schools, and our world • a world where heartlessness yields only to gifts and graces that come from within. • Adapted from the Foreword to the 10th Anniversary Edition CD included with exclusive conversation with Parker J. Palmer about the Courage to Teach Movement • past, present, and future.

Parker Palmer is one of my favorite writers. This is a book to listen to at least once a year (if you're a teacher). It's inspiring and reminds me of what's truly important in the classroom, especially after a semester with a bunch of disgruntled, self-entitled students. I consider it almost a self-help book, one that keeps me passionate about teaching even when teaching is getting me down. I must say a lot of people have majorly misunderstood Palmer in this book. It's important to read carefully and NOT box Palmer in with the "let students do anything they want at all in the classroom even if they learn nothing, so they can 'find themselves'" crowd. He does not promote that. I admit his language comes across as kind of "hippy" sometimes, but if you really consider his IDEAS, he is not a pushover or an over-permissive free-for-all-ist at all. He just thinks teaching is relational, and ideas are important, and can help us build relationships. I think he's right. And I'm glad he writes!

Remarkable teachers, Palmer believes, are a pragmatic lot who do whatever it takes and often fail. Along the way they may find themselves begging, cajoling, and expressing their own gratitude, fearfulness, and ignorance. All of them eschew mere technique and aspire to make their teaching an intensely spiritual experience: they allow teaching to transform their innermost selves. Palmer's challenge to each educator is to acknowledge that knowing one's students and knowing one's subject requires the deepest self-knowledge. What is required is nothing less than an unflinching commitment to live out in the classroom a painful Socratic examination of one's own life. This indeed requires a courageous willingness to make oneself vulnerable. But what exactly is involved, and what is the payoff? Thankfully, Palmer's analysis avoids the fuzzy metaphors (and half-baked metaphysics) that spoil many contemporary "new age" visions of the role of spirituality in public life.

Palmer, who was trained in philosophy, religion, and sociology, provides many specific examples. His most conventional claim is that modelling Socratic examination allows teachers to inspire their students to construct deeply fulfilling lives. He also argues that a Socratic entanglement of a teacher with her subject causes a passionate engagement more helpful than any bureaucrat's assessment instrument. Palmer draws on anecdotes--from kindergarten teachers to medical school professors, from shop teachers to physicists--to make his case. These anecdotes provide constructive solutions to many of the most painful problems teachers face and make plausible Palmer's vision of the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual depths of a life committed to teaching and learning.

Anything by Parker J. Palmer is a MUST HAVE! Great insights presented clearly and concisely. The book and the concepts therein gave me quite a lot to reflect upon and I read it over time several times. I got something more and of greater depth every time.

Palmer is inspirational and fun to read! This book gives you confidence as a future or current educator, and it is fun to read and understand the many different types of educators. However, it's kind of mushy.

A great reminder of why we chose this profession; especially when feeling run down

Hands down, one of the best books I have ever read. For all of the teachers out there or teachers in training, this is a MUST read. Palmer captures all of the moments that an educator can expect to have with a realistic view of them. Passionate read. Will re-read.

Parker Palmer is my hero. Teaching as an art is about connecting to a deeper meaning and purpose for living. It's not just about passing along content. It's about connecting to our content and then connecting to our students in ways that allow us to create deeper understandings of the world we live in and how we can do better in it. Thank you Dr. Palmer.

What an outstanding read for all who seek to delve into pedagogy...I believe it should be on the shelf of every student, especially those in the academy...

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