

The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition

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]

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

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

"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.

From the Back Cover

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.

About the Author

Parker J. Palmer is a highly respected writer, lecturer, teacher, and activist. His work speaks deeply to people in many walks of life, including education, medicine, religion, law, philanthropy, the public sector, and social change. Author of seven books, including the bestsellers Let Your Life Speak and A Hidden Wholeness, his writing has been recognized with ten honorary doctorates and a number of national awards. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kenneth Roland:

Here thing why that The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition are different and reputable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good however it depends in the content than it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no reserve that similar with The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your way home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition in e-book can be your choice.

Lizabeth Melgar:

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Helen Jackson:

The book The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition will bring one to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to learn, this book very ideal to you. The book The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Heather Killen:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition it is very good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

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