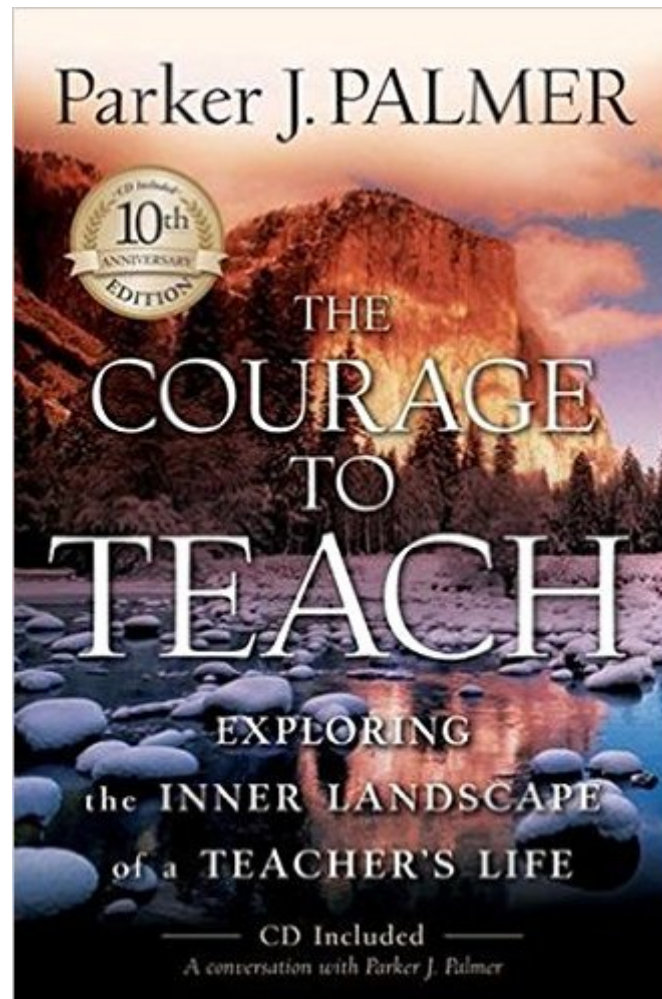


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# The Courage To Teach: Exploring The Inner Landscape Of A Teacher's Life, 10th Anniversary Edition



## 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—the place 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](http://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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In his book, *The Courage To Teach*, Parker Palmer refers to the power of great mentors to "awaken a truth within us." By his own definition, he has mentored thousands of teachers over the past decade, guiding them toward their own truth, integrity and the courage needed to hang in there during this turbulent time for the teaching profession. This book is a must for everyone who recognizes, that there has never been a time when it took more courage to teach! Georgia Weithe, Educational Consultant

Parker Palmer's wisdom is invaluable to all who teach. His ideas are both profound and revolutionary. *The Courage to Teach* leads us on an exploration of the paradoxes inherent in our living and our teaching. We are encouraged to "cultivate the capacity for connectedness on which all good teaching depends." Parker's words inspire us to live and teach authentically, and invite our students to do the same. This book is a must read for all who struggle to teach in a way that opens students' hearts, as well as their minds.

I love this book! I loved it when the first edition came out ten years ago -- and I love it even more now, with the new beginning and ending. I also love the CD that comes with the book -- the wonderful conversation between Parker and his colleagues. Parker puts into words what so many of us have felt -- and he does it exquisitely. He says that we teach who we are, that the teacher's identity and integrity are more important than any technique or method. Good teachers have always known that -- but we've begun to doubt our own knowing in this mean climate that has left way too many teachers behind. This book is the perfect gift for every new teacher-- as well as for those of us who struggle some days to remember the passion that brought us to teaching in the first place!

Now in its tenth anniversary edition, *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life* is the testimony of veteran educator Parker J. Palmer, created to help fellow teachers take heart in the face bureaucratic systems that are sometimes outright hostile, among other obstacles. *The Courage to Teach* is centered upon the basic premise that truly good teaching

comes not merely from technique, but rather is rooted in the identity and integrity of the instructor. Chapters tell of the critical importance of forming a connection with students, forming a positive community network, and the invaluable role of an indomitable spirit within teachers. An accompanying audio CD of a conversation with Parker J. Palmer and associates rounds out the inspirational guide by a passionate professional, for professionals seeking to revitalize their inner fire.

Do you have a favorite teacher? Someone who is working overtime to inspire your children? Someone who adds meaning to your life? Or perhaps you are a teacher who needs some deep inspiration and healing. This book is for all of us. For ten years Parker Palmer's writing has been the most powerful word-of-mouth best seller on the market. Don't wait to add it to your library! Chip Wood, M.S.W., Elementary Principal, Co-Founder, Responsive Classroom

Parker J. Palmer's *The Courage to Teach* is a book absolutely critical for someone in a teaching position, or interested in teaching. However, though it is about teaching, anyone and everyone can benefit from reading it. It transcends the subject of teaching and is applicable to life in general. The book is, and I am not exaggerating, a fountain of profound knowledge. Palmer talks about the flaws of objectivism and its effect on the teacher's mind, as well as the student's mind (and really, on the average American's mind). He contends that it creates disconnectedness that makes proper learning impossible. In that disconnectedness, we divide apart our world and engage in flawed mindsets like competition. He expresses the need for a teacher to provide community for students, through being connected with the subject and connected with them. One has to be made vulnerable in order to really teach and to really learn. He describes teaching and learning as a great paradox, but a paradox that must be embraced if we are to learn and teach properly. Palmer suggests that the modern mind is full of division and disconnectedness and must be remedied by community and connectedness. Throughout the book, he shows how this can be accomplished in various ways. It is a truly profound book. I have learned a lot from reading it and I highly recommend it.

Parker Palmer's book, *The Courage to Teach*, advocates for an authentic way of teaching that is based on connection and inspiration rather than on competition and pride. He powerfully documents his own journey--even modeling what it looks like to be an authentic teacher--and shares his ideas and experiences with clarity, compassion and boldness. Palmer's desire to help teachers become better instructors by dealing with their own fears and realizing their own passions is exactly what

education in America needs right now. The modes of teaching and realting Palmer explores can help our students enormously--and ourselves. If you are a teacher, I highly recommend reading this book. When I first began teaching high school, I re-read certain chapters again and again, and they provided sustenance on that daunting journey of learning to be both honest and bold at the same time.

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