

Opinion Exchange

1. Find someone who has a story that illustrates one of the following quotes. Who is that person? What's the quote? What's the story?

2. Find someone who reacts negatively to one of these quotes. Who is that person? What's the quote and why don't they like it?

3. Find someone who reacts positively to one of these quotes. Who is the person? What's the quote and why do they like it?

4. Find someone who is conflicted or uncertain about one of these quotes. Who is the person? What's the quote and why are they unsure about it?

5. Find someone who has a different opinion that you about one of these quotes. Who is the person? What's the quote? Why do you disagree?

Quotes about Teaching

"A life in teaching is a stitched-together affair, a crazy quilt of odd pieces and scrounged materials, equal parts invention and imposition. To make a life in teaching is largely to find your own way, to follow this or that thread, to work until your fingers ache, your mid feels as if it will unravel, and your eyes give out, and to make mistakes and then rework large pieces."

William Ayers, *To Teach: The Journey of a Teacher*

"To teach in a manner that respects and cares for the souls of our students is essential if we are to provide the necessary conditions where learning can most deeply and intimately begin."

bell hooks, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*

"Society and action without solitude would be meager and in the end make for a dwindling personality, perhaps. You can't eat with others and for others all day and all night. There has to be something that brings life-food from the inside."

May Sarton

"If schools are to be places that encourage new teachers, causing them to see teaching as an interesting and unique career, they have to be intellectually and socially challenging environments in which teachers read together, reflect on practice, develop curriculum with a local situated quality, and become conscious about the development of a learning community."

Vito Perrone, *A Letter to Teachers: Reflections on Schooling and the Art of Teaching*

"At times I feel drained, uninspired, and just plain tired. I've considered leaving teaching. . ."

Elementary School Teacher

"In his book, *Lives on the Boundary*, Mike Rose describes teaching as 'a kind of romance.' Teaching as a kind of romance, the teacher the wooer: giving a pat on the back, offering conversation. Intriguing and novel imagery of what we do. Love for our students is one major impetus for keeping our passion in teaching alive."

Sonia Nieto, *What Keeps Teachers Going*

" 'Just make it through the year,' said the teacher sitting next to me at one of the first department meetings of the school year. 'Wait to think about what worked and what didn't until it's all over.'"

And though my colleague was trying to be supportive, his words served as a reminder that many teachers—both new and seasoned—think that a new teacher's major goal is to survive the school year."

Portland (OR) High School Teacher (First Year)

"You need only claim the events of your life to make yourself yours. When you truly possess all you have been and done. . .you are fierce with reality."

Florida Scott Maxwell

"From grade school on, education is a fearful enterprise. As a student, I was in too many classrooms riddled with fear, the fear that leads many children, born with a love of learning, to hate the idea of school. As a teacher, I am at my worst when fear takes the lead in me, whether that means teaching in fear of my students, or manipulating their fears of me."

Parker Palmer, *The Courage to Teach*

"Loaf and invite your soul."

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*