

Books That Strengthen Our Practice

Recommended by the Edutopia Community

We asked our Edutopia community to share their favorite book recommendations for teachers looking to strengthen their practice. Here are the titles they return to again and again, from building strong classroom routines to finding joy and balance in the work.

The First Days of School: How to Be an Effective Teacher by Harry & Rosemary Wong

The First Six Weeks of School by Responsive Classroom

The Power of Our Words: Teacher Language That Helps Children Learn by Paula Denton

The Emotional Lives of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents by Lisa Damour

Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom From Young Children at School by Carla Shalaby

The Together Teacher: Plan Ahead, Get Organized, and Save Time! by Maia Heyck-Merlin

It Won't Be Easy: An Exceedingly Honest (and Slightly Unprofessional) Love Letter to Teaching by Tom Rademacher

Humans Who Teach: A Guide for Centering Love, Justice, and Liberation in Schools by Shamari Reid

Onward: Cultivating Emotional Resilience in Educators by Elena Aguilar

Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students by Zaretta Hammond

The First Five: A Love Letter to Teachers by Patrick Harris II

Becoming an Everyday Changemaker: Healing and Justice at School by Alex Shevrin Venet

Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy by Gholdy Muhammad

Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement by John Hattie

Hacking Deficit Thinking: 8 Reframes That Will Change the Way You Think About Strength-Based Practices and Equity in Schools by Byron McClure & Kelsie Reed

Grading for Equity: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How It Can Transform Schools and Classrooms by Joe Feldman