

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary

Erin Gruwell the Freedom Writers Diary

Erin Gruwell, a dedicated and innovative educator, is best known for her transformative work with at-risk students in Long Beach, California, which culminated in the publication of *The Freedom Writers Diary*. Her approach to teaching, which emphasizes empathy, storytelling, and empowerment, revolutionized the lives of her students and redefined the educational experience for many marginalized youth. The journey from a novice teacher to a celebrated advocate for change exemplifies how passion, perseverance, and compassion can break down barriers and foster hope in even the most challenging environments.

Background and Early Life of Erin Gruwell

Early Life and Education

- Born in 1969, Erin Gruwell grew up in Southern California.
- She developed an early passion for teaching and storytelling.
- Attended California State University, Long Beach, where she earned her degree in Education.

Initial Teaching Experiences

- Started her teaching career at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach.
- Faced with a classroom of diverse students, many from underprivileged backgrounds.
- Encountered the challenges of engaging students displaced by violence, gangs, and poverty.

The Challenges in the Classroom

Student Demographics and Social Issues

- The classroom was a microcosm of societal tensions, including racial conflicts and economic disparities.
- Many students had experienced trauma, violence, and loss.
- There was widespread distrust among students and a general sense of hopelessness.

Initial Teaching Approach and Obstacles

- Gruwell initially employed traditional teaching methods, which proved ineffective.
- Students were disengaged, often indifferent or hostile.
- Language barriers and cultural differences compounded the difficulties.

The Turning Point: Embracing a New Pedagogical Approach

Discovery of The Diary of Anne Frank

- Gruwell introduced The Diary of Anne Frank as a way to connect students' experiences to historical narratives.
- The book served as a catalyst for empathy and understanding.

Implementing Student Journals

- Encouraged students to keep personal journals, writing about their lives and struggles.
- This exercise fostered self-expression and emotional release.
- Journals became a safe space for students to explore their identities and stories.

Building Trust and Community

- Through consistent engagement and genuine care, Gruwell built relationships with her students.
- She cultivated a classroom environment rooted in respect and understanding.
- Students began to see education as a pathway to change.

The Creation of The Freedom Writers Diary

From Journals to a Collective Voice

- Over time, students' journal entries formed the basis of The Freedom Writers Diary.
- The book is a compilation of personal stories addressing themes of violence, racism, love, loss, and hope.
- It was co-authored by Erin Gruwell and her students, giving voice to marginalized youth.

Publication and Impact

- Published in 1999, the book garnered critical acclaim and widespread attention.
- It became a bestseller, inspiring educators and students worldwide.
- The diary's success highlighted the power of storytelling in education.

Key Themes Explored in The Diary

- Overcoming adversity
- The importance of tolerance and understanding
- Personal growth and resilience
- The transformative power of education

The Freedom Writers Movement

Expanding the Educational Philosophy

- Inspired by her classroom success, Gruwell founded the Freedom Writers Foundation.
- The foundation aims to empower teachers and students through innovative programs.

Teacher Training and Outreach

- Provides training for educators to implement similar strategies.
- Promotes the use of journaling, dialogue, and culturally relevant teaching.

Impact on Students and Communities

- The movement has reached thousands of students across the United States.
- It emphasizes that education can be a tool for social change.

Legacy and Continuing Influence

Recognition and Awards

- Erin Gruwell has received numerous accolades, including the CNN Heroes award.
- Her work has been featured in documentaries, books, and media outlets.

Inspiration for Films and Media

- The story of her classroom was adapted into the 2007 film *Freedom Writers*, starring Hilary Swank.
- The film dramatizes her journey and the students' stories, further spreading her message.

Ongoing Work and Advocacy

- Gruwell continues to speak at educational conferences and workshops.
- She advocates for equitable education and the importance of student voice.

Lessons Learned from Erin Gruwell and The Freedom Writers Diary

The Power of Empathy and Connection

- Building genuine relationships creates trust and opens doors for learning.
- Understanding students' backgrounds can transform classroom dynamics.

The Importance of Storytelling in Education

- Personal narratives foster empathy and self-awareness.
- Sharing stories can challenge stereotypes and promote inclusivity.

Innovative Teaching as a Catalyst for Change

- Traditional methods may not reach all students; creativity is essential.
- Empowering students to tell their stories instills confidence and agency.

Role of Educators as Change Makers

- Teachers can influence social change beyond the classroom.
- Dedication and compassion are vital in inspiring hope and resilience.

Conclusion

Erin Gruwell's journey exemplifies how education, when infused with empathy, creativity, and a commitment to understanding, can profoundly impact lives. Her work with the Freedom Writers not only transformed her students but also challenged conventional notions of teaching and learning.

The Freedom Writers Diary remains a testament to the resilience of youth and the transformative power of storytelling, serving as an enduring reminder that every voice matters. Through her innovative approach, Gruwell has inspired educators worldwide to foster environments where students feel valued, heard, and empowered to change their worlds.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Erin Gruwell and what role did she play in 'The Freedom Writers Diary'?

Erin Gruwell is a dedicated high school teacher who inspired her students to write 'The Freedom Writers Diary,' documenting their personal experiences and promoting understanding and change.

What is the main theme of 'The Freedom Writers Diary'?

The main themes include overcoming adversity, the power of education, racial and social justice, and the importance of empathy and self-expression.

How did Erin Gruwell's teaching methods influence her students in 'The Freedom Writers Diary'?

Her innovative teaching methods, including encouraging journaling and open discussions, helped students find their voice, build confidence, and break down racial and social barriers.

What impact did 'The Freedom Writers Diary' have on education and popular culture?

The book inspired a film and increased awareness about the importance of personalized education and addressing student trauma, influencing teaching approaches worldwide.

What challenges did Erin Gruwell face while creating 'The Freedom Writers Diary' with her students?

She faced resistance from the school system, cultural barriers, and student trauma, but persevered to empower her students through writing and storytelling.

Additional Resources

Erin Gruwell's *The Freedom Writers Diary* has become one of the most influential and inspiring narratives in contemporary literature, especially within the realms of education, social justice, and personal transformation. As both a compelling memoir and an educational tool, this book offers a rare glimpse into the lives of marginalized students and the profound impact a dedicated teacher can have on their futures. Through her dedication, empathy, and innovative teaching methods, Erin Gruwell transformed her students' lives, illustrating the power of hope, understanding, and

perseverance. This review delves into the various aspects of "The Freedom Writers Diary," exploring its themes, storytelling, educational relevance, and overall significance.

Overview of the Book

The Freedom Writers Diary is based on the real-life experiences of Erin Gruwell and her students at Woodrow Wilson Classical High School in Long Beach, California. The book is a compilation of journal entries written by the students themselves, chronicling their struggles with violence, racism, poverty, and personal identity. These entries serve as raw, authentic accounts of their lives, providing readers a window into the challenges faced by teenagers in underprivileged communities.

The narrative is structured around the students' writings, interspersed with Gruwell's reflections, teaching philosophies, and the broader social issues that frame their stories. It's both a personal memoir and a collective voice that highlights the importance of education as a tool for social change.

Key Features of the Book

- **Authentic Student Voices:** The journal entries are unfiltered, emotional, and candid, offering powerful insights into youth experiences.
- **Transformative Teaching:** The story underscores the significance of innovative teaching methods and genuine mentorship.
- **Themes of Hope and Resilience:** Despite adversity, the students demonstrate resilience, illustrating that change is possible.
- **Real-Life Impact:** The book chronicles tangible outcomes, including students' academic success and personal growth.

Themes and Messages

Education as a Catalyst for Change

One of the central themes of "The Freedom Writers Diary" is the transformative power of education. Erin Gruwell believed that every student deserved a chance to succeed, regardless of their background. Her efforts to foster an inclusive, respectful classroom environment allowed students to share their stories and confront their prejudices.

Overcoming Racism and Prejudice

The students' entries reveal the deep-seated racial tensions and prejudices that permeate their community. Through dialogue, exposure to diverse perspectives, and mutual understanding, the book demonstrates how education can challenge stereotypes and promote empathy.

Personal Growth and Resilience

The diary entries depict a journey from despair to hope. Students confront their fears, traumas, and societal limitations, ultimately emerging stronger and more self-aware. This theme emphasizes that personal resilience is essential in overcoming adversity.

The Power of Storytelling

The act of writing and sharing personal stories is a recurring motif. It allows students to process their experiences, find their voice, and foster a sense of community. Gruwell's emphasis on

storytelling underscores its role as a healing and empowering tool.

Writing Style and Narrative Approach

Authenticity and Voice

The journal format lends an authentic voice to the students, capturing their raw emotions and thoughts. This approach creates an intimate reading experience, making readers feel connected to each individual story.

Balance of Personal and Educational Commentary

While the core of the book is the students' writings, Gruwell's reflections and contextual explanations help frame the issues discussed. Her narrative style is empathetic, inspiring, and accessible, making complex social issues understandable without oversimplification.

Impact of the Diary Format

The diary format not only personalizes the stories but also emphasizes the importance of student agency. It demonstrates that young people's voices are vital in conversations about social justice and education reform.

Educational Significance

Innovative Teaching Methods

Erin Gruwell employed unconventional techniques, such as using literature related to social issues (e.g., "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Zlata's Diary") to relate to students' experiences. She encouraged creative writing, open discussions, and empathy-building activities.

Promoting Critical Thinking

The curriculum challenged students to analyze societal inequalities, question stereotypes, and develop critical thinking skills. This approach empowered students to become active agents in their education.

Encouraging Self-Expression

By fostering a safe space for sharing personal stories, Gruwell helped students recognize the value of their voices. This emphasis on self-expression contributed to increased confidence and academic engagement.

Challenges in Implementation

While innovative, Gruwell faced obstacles such as limited resources, institutional resistance, and community skepticism. Nonetheless, her persistence demonstrated that meaningful change is possible with dedication.

Impact and Legacy

Real-Life Outcomes

Many students featured in the book experienced significant personal growth, with some pursuing higher education or careers inspired by their experiences. The "Freedom Writers" themselves became advocates for education reform and social justice.

Broader Influence

The book inspired the 2007 film "Freedom Writers," starring Hilary Swank, which further popularized the story and its messages. Educational institutions worldwide adopted similar methodologies, emphasizing the importance of culturally responsive teaching.

Awards and Recognition

Erin Gruwell and her students received numerous accolades for their inspiring stories and educational initiatives, highlighting the enduring relevance of their journey.

Pros and Cons

Pros

- Authentic and Engaging: The diary format provides a genuine window into students' lives.
- Inspiring Message: Demonstrates the transformative power of education and empathy.
- Educational Value: Offers practical insights into innovative teaching strategies.
- Cultural Relevance: Highlights important social issues such as racism, poverty, and violence.
- Empowering Voices: Amplifies marginalized youth perspectives.

Cons

- Simplification of Complex Issues: Some critics argue that the book may oversimplify systemic problems.
- Limited Scope: Focuses primarily on a specific school and community, which may not be universally applicable.
- Emotional Intensity: The rawness of journal entries might be overwhelming for some readers.
- Potential Idealism: Some may view the success story as optimistic or idealistic without addressing broader societal challenges.

Features and Educational Resources

- Discussion Guides: Supplemental materials for classroom use.
- Teacher Training: Workshops inspired by Gruwell's methods.
- Student Engagement: Encourages journaling and storytelling as learning tools.

Personal Reflection and Critical Analysis

"Erin Gruwell The Freedom Writers Diary" stands as a testament to the profound impact educators can have when they approach teaching with compassion, creativity, and conviction. The students' writings are powerful, often heartbreaking, but ultimately uplifting. The book underscores that every student's story matters and that listening can be a revolutionary act.

However, it is essential to recognize the context and limitations of this narrative. While the successes are inspiring, systemic issues such as poverty, inequality, and institutional bias remain pervasive. The book does an excellent job of highlighting individual and small-group change but

should be complemented by broader societal efforts.

In conclusion, "The Freedom Writers Diary" is more than just a collection of journal entries; it is a call to action for educators, students, and communities to foster understanding, resilience, and hope. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to inspire change at both personal and societal levels, making it a must-read for anyone interested in education, social justice, or human stories of perseverance.

This comprehensive review underscores the significance of Erin Gruwell's work and the importance of listening to marginalized voices. Whether used as an educational resource or as inspiration for personal growth, "The Freedom Writers Diary" remains a powerful testament to the transformative power of education and empathy.

Erin Gruwell The Freedom Writers Diary

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: *The Freedom Writers Diary (20th Anniversary Edition)* The Freedom Writers, Erin Gruwell, 2007-04-24 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The twentieth anniversary edition of the classic story of an incredible group of students and the teacher who inspired them, featuring updates on the students' lives, new journal entries, and an introduction by Erin Gruwell Now a public television documentary, *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart* In 1994, an idealistic first-year teacher in Long Beach, California, named Erin Gruwell confronted a room of "unteachable, at-risk" students. She had intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature and angrily declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Holocaust. She was met by uncomprehending looks—none of her students had heard of one of the defining moments of the twentieth century. So she rebooted her entire curriculum, using treasured books such as Anne Frank's diary as her guide to combat intolerance and misunderstanding. Her students began recording their thoughts and feelings in their own diaries, eventually dubbing themselves the "Freedom Writers." Consisting of powerful entries from the students' diaries and narrative text by Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is an unforgettable story of how hard work, courage, and determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students. In the two decades since its original publication, the book has sold more than one million copies and inspired a major motion picture *Freedom Writers*. And now, with this twentieth-anniversary edition, readers are brought up to date on the lives of the Freedom Writers, as they blend indispensable takes on social issues with uplifting stories of attending college—and watch their own children follow in their footsteps. *The Freedom Writers Diary* remains a vital read for anyone who believes in second chances.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: The Freedom Writers Diary Teacher's Guide Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers*, 2007-10-02 A standards-based teacher's guide from the educator behind the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Freedom Writers Diary*, with innovative teaching techniques that will engage, empower, and enlighten. Don't miss the public television documentary *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart* In response to thousands of letters and e-mails from teachers across the country who learned about Erin Gruwell and her amazing students in *The Freedom Writers Diary* and the hit movie *Freedom Writers*, Gruwell and a team of teacher experts have written *The Freedom Writers Diary Teacher's Guide*, a book that will encourage teachers and students to expand the walls of their classrooms and think outside the box. Here Gruwell goes in depth and shares her unconventional but highly successful educational strategies and techniques (all 150 of her students, who had been deemed "unteachable," graduated from Wilson High School in

Long Beach, California): from her very successful “toast for change” (an exercise in which Gruwell exhorted her students to leave the past behind and start fresh) to writing exercises that focus on the importance of journal writing, vocabulary, and more. In an easy-to-use format with black-and-white illustrations, this teacher’s guide will become the essential go-to manual for teachers who want to make a difference in their pupils’ lives.

erin gruwel the freedom writers diary: Dear Freedom Writer The Freedom Writers, Erin Gruwell, 2022-03-29 The students of today tell their stories of adversity and growth in letters to the original Freedom Writers—authors of the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Freedom Writers Diary*—who write supportive and powerful letters in response. Over twenty years ago, the students in first-year teacher Erin Gruwell’s high school class in Long Beach, California, were labeled “unteachable”—but she saw past that. Instead of treating them as scores on a test, she understood that each of them had a unique story to tell. Inspired by books like Anne Frank’s diary, her students began writing their own diaries, eventually dubbing themselves the Freedom Writers. Together, they co-authored *The Freedom Writers Diary*, which launched a movement that remains incredibly relevant and impactful today. Their stories speak to young people who feel as if those around them do not care about their lives, their feelings, and their struggles. They want to be heard; they want to be seen. In *Dear Freedom Writer*, the next generation of Freedom Writers shares its struggles with abuse, racism, discrimination, poverty, mental health, imposed borders, LGBTQIA+ identity, and police violence. Each story is answered with a letter of advice from an original Freedom Writer. With empathy and honesty, they address these young people not with the platitudes of a politician or a celebrity, but with the pragmatic advice of people who have dealt with these same issues and come out on the other side. Through its eye-opening and inspiring stories, *Dear Freedom Writer* paints an unflinchingly honest portrait of today’s youth and offers a powerful message of perseverance, understanding, and hope.

erin gruwel the freedom writers diary: Teaching Hope The Freedom Writers, Erin Gruwell, 2009-08-18 Incredible stories of struggle, redemption, and the power of education from the teachers taught by Erin Gruwell and the #1 New York Times bestselling authors of *The Freedom Writers Diary* Don’t miss the public television documentary *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart* “These are the most influential professionals most of us will ever meet. The effects of their work will last forever.”—From the foreword by Anna Quindlen Now documented in a bestselling book, feature film, and public television documentary, the Freedom Writers phenomenon came about in 1994, when Erin Gruwell stepped into Room 203 and began her first teaching job out of college. Long Beach, California, was still reeling from the deadly violence that erupted during the Rodney King riots, and the kids in Erin’s classroom reflected the anger, resentment, and hopelessness of their community. Undaunted, Erin fostered an educational philosophy that valued and promoted diversity, tolerance, and communication, and in the process, she transformed her students’ lives, as well as her own. Erin Gruwell and the Freedom Writers went on to establish the Freedom Writers Foundation to replicate the success of Room 203 and provide all students with hope and opportunities to realize their academic potential. Since then, the foundation has trained more than 800 teachers around the world. *Teaching Hope* unites the voices of these Freedom Writer Teachers, who share uplifting, devastating, and poignant stories from their classrooms, stories that provide insight into the struggles and triumphs of education in all of its forms. Mirroring an academic year, these dispatches from the front lines of education take us from the anticipation of the first day to the disillusionment, challenges, and triumphs of the school year. These are the voices of teachers who persevere in the face of intolerance, rigid administration, and countless other challenges, and continue to reach out and teach those who are deemed unteachable. Their stories inspire everyone to make a difference in the world around them.

erin gruwel the freedom writers diary: The Freedom Writers Diary Freedom Writers, 2001 Tells the story of how young English teacher Erin Gruwell confronted the problem of racial and ethnic intolerance in her classroom, and features excerpts from the diaries of her students, now known as *The Freedom Writers*.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: Teach with Your Heart Erin Gruwell, 2008-01-15

The extraordinary memoir of the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Freedom Writers Diary*, who's been hailed as "a true inspiration" (Hilary Swank) and "simply magical when it comes to inspiring people to action" (Los Angeles Times). Don't miss the public television documentary *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart* In this passionate, poignant, and deeply personal memoir and call to arms, Erin Gruwell, the dynamic teacher who nurtured an extraordinary group of high school students from Long Beach, California, who called themselves the Freedom Writers, picks up where *The Freedom Writers Diary*—and the hit movie *Freedom Writers*—left off and brings the reader up to date on where the Freedom Writers are today. Including their unforgettable trip to Auschwitz, where they met with Holocaust survivors; their tour of the attic of their beloved Anne Frank; and their visit to Bosnia with their friend Zlata Filipović, *Teach With Your Heart* chronicles what happened with the Freedom Writers as they made their way through college and beyond. Along the way, Gruwell includes lessons for parents and teachers about what she learned from her remarkable band of students as she traveled through the emotional peaks and valleys on the front lines of our nation's educational system. A mesmerizing story of one young woman's personal odyssey and of her unique ability to encourage others to follow in her footsteps, *Teach With Your Heart* is marked by the enviable radiance and irrepressible force of nature that are Erin Gruwell and her unbelievable determination to ensure that education in the United States truly meets the needs of every student.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150*

Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them The Freedom Writers, 2006-12-01 Shocked by the teenage violence she witnessed during the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, Erin Gruwell became a teacher at a high school rampant with hostility and racial intolerance. For many of these students-whose ranks included substance abusers, gang members, the homeless, and victims of abuse-Gruwell was the first person to treat them with dignity, to believe in their potential and help them see it themselves. Soon, their loyalty towards their teacher and burning enthusiasm to help end violence and intolerance became a force of its own. Inspired by reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* and meeting Zlata Filipovic (the eleven-year old girl who wrote of her life in Sarajevo during the civil war), the students began a joint diary of their inner-city upbringings. Told through anonymous entries to protect their identities and allow for complete candor, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is filled with astounding vignettes from 150 students who, like civil rights activist Rosa Parks and the Freedom Riders, heard society tell them where to go-and refused to listen. Proceeds from this book benefit the Freedom Writers Foundation, an organization set up to provide scholarships for underprivileged youth and to train teachers

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: Teaching Hope The Freedom Writers, Erin Gruwell,

2009-08-18 Incredible stories of struggle, redemption, and the power of education from the teachers taught by Erin Gruwell and the #1 New York Times bestselling authors of *The Freedom Writers Diary* Don't miss the public television documentary *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart* "These are the most influential professionals most of us will ever meet. The effects of their work will last forever."—From the foreword by Anna Quindlen Now documented in a bestselling book, feature film, and public television documentary, the Freedom Writers phenomenon came about in 1994, when Erin Gruwell stepped into Room 203 and began her first teaching job out of college. Long Beach, California, was still reeling from the deadly violence that erupted during the Rodney King riots, and the kids in Erin's classroom reflected the anger, resentment, and hopelessness of their community. Undaunted, Erin fostered an educational philosophy that valued and promoted diversity, tolerance, and communication, and in the process, she transformed her students' lives, as well as her own. Erin Gruwell and the Freedom Writers went on to establish the Freedom Writers Foundation to replicate the success of Room 203 and provide all students with hope and opportunities to realize their academic potential. Since then, the foundation has trained more than 800 teachers around the world. *Teaching Hope* unites the voices of these Freedom Writer Teachers, who share uplifting, devastating, and poignant stories from their classrooms, stories that provide insight into the

struggles and triumphs of education in all of its forms. Mirroring an academic year, these dispatches from the front lines of education take us from the anticipation of the first day to the disillusionment, challenges, and triumphs of the school year. These are the voices of teachers who persevere in the face of intolerance, rigid administration, and countless other challenges, and continue to reach out and teach those who are deemed unteachable. Their stories inspire everyone to make a difference in the world around them.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: Teaching Hope Erin Gruwell, Freedom Writers, 2009-11-10 Published to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the best-selling *The Freedom Writers Diary*, a volume of true accounts by Freedom Writers Method-trained teachers parallels the course of an academic year and reflects its contributors' struggles with intolerance, administration dogma, and other challenges. Original.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: The Freedom Writers Diary Book Discussion Kit Erin Gruwell, Dominic Hoffman, Babni Turpin, Cassandra Campbell, Freedom Writers, Allen County Public Library, 2012 Overview: Straight from the front line of urban America, the inspiring story of one fiercely determined teacher and her remarkable students. As an idealistic twenty-three-year-old English teacher at Wilson High School in Long beach, California, Erin Gruwell confronted a room of unteachable, at-risk students. One day she intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature, and angrily declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Holocaust - only to be met by uncomprehending looks. So she and her students, using the treasured books *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo* as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding. They learned to see the parallels in these books to their own lives, recording their thoughts and feelings in diaries and dubbing themselves the Freedom Writers in homage to the civil rights activists The Freedom Riders. With funds raised by a Read-a-thon for Tolerance, they arranged for Miep Gies, the courageous Dutch woman who sheltered the Frank family, to visit them in California, where she declared that Erin Gruwell's students were the real heroes. Their efforts have paid off spectacularly, both in terms of recognition - appearances on Prime Time Live and All Things Considered, coverage in People magazine, a meeting with US Secretary of Education Richard Riley - and educationally. All 150 Freedom Writers have graduated from high school and are now attending college. With powerful entries from the students' own diaries and a narrative text by Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is an uplifting, unforgettable example of how hard work, courage, and the spirit of determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students. The authors' proceeds from this book will be donated to The Tolerance Education Foundation, an organization set up to pay for the Freedom Writers' college tuition. Erin Gruwell is now a visiting professor at California State University, Long Beach, where some of her students are Freedom Writers.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: The Freedom Writers Diary Freedom Writers Staff, Gruwell Erin, 2014-07-01 Ellen Raskin was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and grew up during the Great Depression. She was the author of several novels, including the Newbery Medal-winning *The Westing Game*, the Newbery Honor-winning *Figgs & Phantoms*, *The Tattooed Potato* and other c

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: *Freedom Writers Diary* Erin Gruwell, 1999-10-12 An account of a teacher and her class as they undertake a life-changing odyssey toward understanding and racial tolerance.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: The Freedom Writers Diary Freedom Writers, Freedom Writers Staff, 1999

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: The Freedom Writers Diary Freedom Writers Foundation, Erin Gruwell, 2009-07-01 A young English teacher was assigned a classroom of unteachable, at-risk students. Using the diaries of Anne Frank and Zlata Filipovic, she showed her students how their diaries paralleled their own lives.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: Everybody Has a Story III Torbjørn Ydegaard (Ed.), 2015-06-05 This is the third book in the series "Everybody Has a Story". The story behind the idea for these books and their title goes back to *The Freedom Writers Diary* that came about as the result

of the teachings of young teacher at a high school in a socially deprived area in Long Beach near Los Angeles. The teacher, Erin Gruwell, found herself more or less forced to base her teachings on the stories of the living conditions of her students. When she became aware of these stories and managed to relate the content of the curriculum to them, her students started to find interest in the subjects of the school – and they began to learn. This book is the result of a Freedom Writer course during the spring-semester 2015. During the course the students were faced with different writing exercises as well as hand-on art-making ranging from drawings over photos to videos. The texts, pictures and other contents of the book are made anonymous to protect the participating students as these products might be very personal. And personal it has to be, when you become aware of whom you actually are!

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: The Political Responsibilities of Everyday

Bystanders Stephen L. Esquith, 2011-02-28 In a world where every person is exposed daily through the mass media to images of violence and suffering, as most dramatically exemplified in recent years by the ongoing tragedy in Darfur, the question naturally arises: What responsibilities do we, as bystanders to such social injustice, bear in holding accountable those who have created the conditions for this suffering? And what is our own complicity in the continuance of such violence&—indeed, how do we contribute to and benefit from it? How is our responsibility as individuals connected to our collective responsibility as members of a society? Such questions underlie Stephen Esquith&’s investigation in this book. For Esquith, being responsible means holding ourselves accountable as a people for the institutions we have built or tolerated and the choices we have made individually and collectively within these institutional constraints. It is thus more than just acknowledgment; it involves settling accounts as well as recognizing our own complicity even as bystanders.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: Diary of a Freedom Writer Darrius Garrett, 2013

Survivor... a word continuously thought of when reading this memoir. Upon the release of The Freedom Writers Diary and film adaptation starring Hilary Swank in 2007, New York Times bestselling author Darrius Garrett realized that both book and movie tell the Freedom Writer Story as a whole, but not on a personal level. During speaking engagements, the same questions always surface: 'Did Ms. Gruwell change you? How did you make it out of the gang life? What stopped you from killing yourself?' Darrius's answers are inside. Diary of a Freedom Writer takes you on a journey beyond the classrooms to the treacherous streets of Long Beach, California. An innocent little boy born in poverty and raised in a violent environment, Darrius became a product of the streets, written off by the school and judicial systems alike, growing up in an environment full of gangs and drugs. He spent his life searching for a father figure until he became a Freedom Writer, motivational speaker, bestselling author, and finally a father himself. His story is that of a man realizing his experiences are what made him the man he has been seeking to be all his life. Upon beating the odds, Diary of a Freedom Writer serves as proof that Darrius's story of struggle, life, change, and hope will uplift, educate, encourage, and inspire.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: A Baker's Dozen of Lessons Learned from the

Teaching Trenches Danny Brassell, 2009-07 Learn from Danny Brassell's real-life teaching experiences ranging from preschool to college in urban school settings as he provides insights on 13 valuable lessons for teachers.--Page 4 of cover

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: Searching for the Self Adrian T. Smith, 2018-01-22

"Who am I?" If you are unsure of your personal identity, you are not alone. Our postmodern culture multiplies identity-crisis. Identity comes from story—the better our story, the healthier our identity and our behavior. Searching for the Self helps you discover your own story, and discern how cultural narratives shape your behavior. Channeling the ancient wisdom of classic stories—including Christian Scripture viewed as true story—this book offers hope to anyone searching for a better story to live by. Searching for the Self provides a groundbreaking synthesis of narrative psychology, cultural analysis, biblical studies, and English Literature 101—all written in an engaging style and interwoven with revealing personal anecdotes.

erin gruwell the freedom writers diary: Yours Truly - An Eternal Saga Of Hearts Geeta Saini, 2023-03-18 I am no author who dives deep down into the ocean of affluent thoughts and writes great sagas to last eternally. I am just a humble teacher with a heart overwhelmed with the memories of my students who came into my life in school as small children and stayed back forever even when they grew up. They walked side by side with me on the road of life sharing all smiles and sorrows. They say a teacher imparts knowledge. Yes! they do, but it is also true that some students teach truly beautiful lessons, make a difference in life, support, applaud, inspire and help in forging an authentic teacher too. 'Yours Truly' is me, whom the magnanimous provider blessed with many students who made me a teacher in true sense. This book is a mark of gratitude to all my boys and girls who were, are and for sure will be with me as my inspiration. Indebted I am to them all for not only being there and keeping connected with me with all their care, love and concern but also teaching me so many precious lessons to abide.

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Hurricane Erin triggers large waves, closes beaches across Hurricane Erin slowly moved northward on Tuesday, triggering rough surf and dangerous rip currents along the East Coast that have already resulted in dozens of water

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Erin - Wikipedia In this context, along with Hibernia, Erin is the name given to the female personification of Ireland, but the name was rarely used as a given name, probably because no saints, queens, or

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