# ECPE HONORS TEACHER 39S BOOK

THE TEACHER READS FOR HONORS TO HONOR A TEACHER TALENT AND TOMORROW'S TEACHERS, THE HONORS APPROACHLESSONS FROM MY TEACHER SMALL VICTORIES MEMORIES OF A GEORGIA TEACHER PLEASE LORD, SPARE ME THE FULL MOON CHOOSING HOPE ANGELS IN MY CLASSROOM: A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON THE CLASS THANK YOU, TEACHER TEACH WITH YOUR HEART BROOKLYN DREAMS AT THE END OF THE BUS RIDEHOW I SURVIVED THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF TEACHING! HAD A GREAT TEACHER LOVE MARY BWHAT I WISH MY TEACHER KNEW A TEACHER'S TREASURES JEFF SPODEN CONFERENCE ON HONORS AND THE PREPARAT KAPPA DELTA PI INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN EDUCATION SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN MARTHA MIZELL PUCKETT DEBORAH HENDRICKS PIERCE KAITLIN ROIG-DEBELLIS LEE-ANN MEREDITH MIKE KERSJES HEATHER WON TESORIERO HOLLY AND BRUCE HOLBERT ERIN GRUWELL SONIA NIETO JANET MORGAN SYLVIA A. WRIGHT KATHY WAGONER ALAN O'HARE MICHELLE MULLER ROBERT JOHN MEEHAN

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ALMOST EVERYONE CAN RECALL A SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL A KINDLY SECOND GRADE TEACHER A TOUGH BUT CARING COACH AN IDEALISTIC HISTORY INSTRUCTOR WHO WENT BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AND LEFT AN IMPRINT ON US FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES TO HONOR A TEACHER IS A KEEPSAKE GIFT BOOK THAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO THOSE ALL IMPORTANT MENTORS WHO HELPED TO MOLD US IN OUR SCHOOL DAYS IT CONTAINS ORIGINAL PROSE AND POETRY TRIBUTES TO SUCH MENTORS WRITTEN BY A DIVERSE RANGE OF CONTRIBUTORS SOME ENTRIES ARE SHORT OTHERS LONGER SOME ARE PAINSTAKINGLY CRAFTED OTHERS ARE THE SIMPLE WORDS OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE JAMES EARL JONES ROBERT BLY JOANNNE WOODWARD PETE SEEGER SYLVIA BOORSTEIN AND ARA PARSEGHIAN TO HONOR A TEACHER IS A PERFECT GIFT TO BE GIVEN BY CURRENT STUDENTS FORMER STUDENTS PARENTS WHO WANT TO RECOGNIZE A TEACHER S WORK WITH THEIR CHILD ADMINISTRATORS WHO WANT TO AWARD EXCELLENCE AND TEACHERS WHO WANT TO HONOR THEIR COLLEAGUES

THIS WORK HAS BEEN SELECTED BY SCHOLARS AS BEING CULTURALLY IMPORTANT AND IS PART OF THE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT THIS WORK IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND POSSIBLY OTHER NATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES YOU MAY FREELY COPY AND

DISTRIBUTE THIS WORK AS NO ENTITY INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE HAS A COPYRIGHT ON THE BODY OF THE WORK SCHOLARS BELIEVE AND WE CONCUR THAT THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE PRESERVED REPRODUCED AND MADE GENERALLY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC TO ENSURE A QUALITY READING EXPERIENCE THIS WORK HAS BEEN PROOFREAD AND REPUBLISHED USING A FORMAT THAT SEAMLESSLY BLENDS THE ORIGINAL GRAPHICAL ELEMENTS WITH TEXT IN AN EASY TO READ TYPEFACE WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PRESERVATION PROCESS AND THANK YOU FOR BEING AN IMPORTANT PART OF KEEPING THIS KNOWLEDGE ALIVE AND RELEVANT

SMALL VICTORIES IS SAMUEL FREEDMAN S REMARKABLE STORY OF LIFE ON THE FRONT LINES IN THE SORT OF HIGH SCHOOL THAT SEEMS LIKE A DISASTER WITH WALLS OLD URBAN OVERCROWDED AND OVERWHELMINGLY MINORITY SEAWARD PARK HIGH SCHOOL ON MANHATTAN S LOWER EAST SIDE HAS BEEN RANKED AMONG THE WORST 10 PERCENT OF HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE YET 92 PERCENT OF ITS GRADUATES GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION THE REASON IS DEDICATED TEACHERS ONE OF WHOM ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR JESSICA SIEGEL IS THE SUBJECT OF FREEDMAN S UNFORGETTABLY DRAMATIC HUMANIZATION OF THE EDUCATION CRISIS FOLLOWING SIEGEL THROUGH THE 1987 88 ACADEMIC YEAR FREEDMAN NOT ONLY SAW A MASTER AT WORK BUT LEARNED FROM THE INSIDE JUST HOW A SCHOOL FUNCTIONS AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS SMALL VICTORIES ALTERNATES JESSICA S EXPERIENCES WITH THOSE OF OTHERS AT SEAWARD PARK AND AS WE CONE TO KNOW INTIMATELY A NUMBER OF THE ASTONISHING STUDENTS AND STAFF SMALL VICTORIES REVEALS ITSELF AS A BOOK THAT HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WAY WE SEE OUR WORLD

WHILE PUCKETT OFFERS A VALUABLE PERSPECTIVE ON SCHOOLING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY RURAL SOUTH SHE ALSO CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF DAILY LIFE IN THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH SHE TAUGHT WE READ OF HOW SHE SOMETIMES BOARDED WITH THE PARENTS OF HER PUPILS OF HOW TEACHERS STUDENTS AND PARENTS JOINED TOGETHER IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAYS AND OF HOW SCHOOLING MANAGED TO CONTINUE THROUGH THE BUSY GROWING SEASONS PERSONAL DETAILS OF PUCKETT S LIFE ALSO EMERGE FROM HER RELATIONSHIP WITH HER PARENTS TO HER LIFE AT HOME WITH HER HUSBAND AND THEIR EIGHT CHILDREN

WHEN I BEGAN TEACHING IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES I KNEW I WAS IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL I KNEW THIS WAS MY CAREER MY CALLING THE FULFILLMENT OF A CHILDHOOD DREAM FROM AS FAR BACK AS MY MEMORY WILL TAKE ME I HAD A LONGING TO BE A TEACHER IT NEVER ENTERED MY MIND TO SPEND MY LIFE IN ANY OTHER WAY THAN IN FRONT OF A CLASSROOM THIS WAS CEMENTED WITH I ENTERED THE FIRST GRADE AND LOVED MY TEACHER SO MUCH I WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE HER IM SURE I LOST NO TIME TELLING THIS TEACHER WHAT I WANTED TO BE WHEN I GREW UP SO SHE GAVE ME LITTLE OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE TEACHING WHEN SOMEONE COULDN'T TIE HIS SHOES SHE WOULD ASK ME TO TEACH HIM HOW IF A STUDENT WAS STRUGGLING SHED PLACE ME BESIDE HIM TO HELP I WAS SO PROUD ANY OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH WAS JUST TAKING ME ONE INCH NEARER MY DESTINATION AS I PROGRESSED THROUGH MY SCHOOL YEARS BEING ASSIGNED TO HELP ONE OF THE SLOWER STUDENTS WAS AN HONOR FOR ME I WAS FORTUNATE THAT THOSE WERE THE YEARS TEACHERS WERE ABSOLUTELY DEDICATED TO THEIR CALLING AND TO THEIR STUDENTS THOSE WERE THE DAYS WHEN TEACHING WAS ONE OF THE FEW PROFESSIONS WOMEN COULD ENTER AND TO GET THERE USUALLY MEANT SOMEONE WAS SACRIFICING FOR THEM TO ATTEND SCHOOL COMPLETING THEIR EDUCATION WAS A CULMINATION OF HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION TEACHERS WERE RESPECTED AND HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE PUBLIC ALL THAT COMBINED PRODUCED GOOD TEACHERS WHO WERE EXTREMELY PROUD TO STAND BEFORE CHILDREN AND BE THE PLANTERS OF KNOWLEDGE AS A CHILD TO BE LIKE ANY ONE OF THEM WAS MY BURNING DESIRE NEVER LOSING SIGHT OF MY GOAL I

PROGRESSED THROUGH THE GRADES I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE MOST ACADEMIC KID ON THE BLOCK BUT I WAS RESPONSIBLE TEACHERS ENTRUSTED ME WITH DUTIES IOBS AND TUTORING IN TWELFTH GRADE I WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF A STUDY HALL UPON GRADUATION I WAS ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEING A TEACHER I FINISHED COLLEGE EARLY AND FINALLY WAS A TEACHER FROM THE BEGINNING OF MY DAYS IN THE CLASSROOM I WROTE DOWN FUNNY THINGS KIDS WOULD SAY AND DO BECAUSE I JUST DIDNT WANT TO FORGET THEM AS I MOVED FROM PRE SCHOOL TO KINDERGARTEN THEN MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL I HAD QUITE A TREASURE TROVE AFTER RETIRING I REFLECTED UPON MY TIME IN THE CLASSROOM AND DECIDED MAYBE MY FRIENDS WERE RIGHT IN TELLING ME I SHOULD WRITE A BOOK I KNEW IT WOULD BE FUN TO SHARE MY STORIES AND EXPERIENCES FROM TIME TO TIME I WOULD GET OUT MY OLD BROWN TATTERED NOTEBOOK AND WRITE AND AS I GOT OLDER AND OLDER LIDECIDED IF LAM GOING TO EVER WRITE A BOOK LINED TO GET MOVING LIKNEW ID RATHER WRITE IT MYSELE THAN TO DIE AND HAVE SOMEONE RUN ACROSS MY NOTEBOOK AND TRY TO WRITE MY STORY THUS A BOOK WAS BORN I DELIGHT IN TELLING MY STORY SOME PAGES WILL MAKE YOU CRY OTHERS WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH I DONT BEGIN TO PRETEND I WAS THE PERFECT TEACHER THIS BOOK DOES NOT ALLUDE TO THAT IT PAINTS A PORTRAIT OF THE INNER WORKINGS OF A CLASSROOM IN TODAYS WORLD IT CONVEYS THE FACT THAT WHEN TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SUBJECT MATTER SOMETIMES TAKES A BACK SEAT THEY CAME TO US WITH SUCH BAGGAGE WHEN I STOP AND THINK ABOUT THE TROUBLES THOSE CHILDREN CARRIED ON THEIR SHOULDERS I MARVEL AT HOW THEY MANAGED TO RISE IN THE MORNINGS AND GET TO SCHOOL AS TEACHERS WE HAD TO LOOK BEYOND THE LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR IN ORDER TO HELP THESE PEOPLE OUR ROLE AS TEACHERS EXTENDED WAY BEYOND OUR TRAINING THESE WERE NOT THE CHILDREN OF YESTERYEAR MOST OF THEM WERE PRODUCTS OF DRUG RIDDEN HOMES AND STREETS ABSENTEE PARENTS VIDEO GAMES VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION AND MOVIES AND ABSOLUTE POVERTY THESE INFLUENCES RODE ON THE BUS WITH THEM AND TRAVELED RIGHT INTO THE CLASSROOM WHERE WE WERE EXPECTED TO TEACH COUNSEL AND POLICE THAT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE TEACHING OF MY CHILDHOOD DREAMS BUT SOMEHOW I SAW THE NEED TO KNOW WHAT MY PRIORITIES HAD TO BE EACH AND EVERY DAY GIVEN ALL THE THINGS I SAW HEARD AND DEALT WITH I DONT BELIEVE I COULD EVER HAVE RETURNED TO A REGULAR CLASSROOM IT WOUL

BOTH A CHILLING AND MOVING ACCOUNT OF THE SANDY HOOK MASSACRE TOLD BY THE TEACHER WHO SAVED 15 OF HER STUDENTS BY HIDING IN A BATHROOM AND A BOOK ABOUT RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA WITH AN INSPIRATIONAL AND LIFE AFFIRMING MESSAGE

ANGELS IN MY CLASSROOM HOW SECOND GRADERS SAVED MY LIFE IS A MEMOIR THAT GIVES READERS A DETAILED GLIMPSE INTO THE HUMAN FACTOR OF TEACHING BY USING HUMOR HEALING AND JOY TO TELL THE STORY OF HOW ONE TEACHER COPED WITH HER HUSBAND'S UNTIMELY DEATH FROM CANCER THE BOOK SET IN A PICTURESQUE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL IN CHICAGO DETAILS HOW LEE ANN'S PASSION FOR HER CLASS OF SECOND GRADERS ALLOWED HER TO NOT ONLY COPE WITH HER HUSBAND'S SICKNESS AND DEATH BUT ALSO IT HELPED HER HEAL STUDENTS WHO WERE ALSO DEALING WITH LOSS AS THE STORY PROGRESSES AND HER HUSBAND'S DEATH BECOMES INEVITABLE LEE ANN REALIZES THAT HER JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF IS THE CATALYST SHE NEEDED TO LEAVE HER COMFORT ZONE OF THE CLASSROOM AND EMBARK ON THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND STEPS INTO A WORLD WITHOUT HER HUSBAND THE BOOK ANGELS IN MY CLASSROOM IS A SOLID EXAMPLE OF THE LOVE THAT TEACHERS NOT ONLY HAVE FOR THEIR STUDENTS BUT THE LOVE THAT STUDENTS SHOW FOR THEIR TEACHERS IN TIMES OF NEED

THE INSPIRING TRUE STORY OF HOW ONE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER GOT HIS CLASS TO SPACE CAMP NOW A HALLMARK HALL OF FAME TELEVISION EVENT A HEARTENING STORY SURE TO INSPIRE OTHER TEACHERS STRUGGLING WITH STUDENTS WHO OFTEN SEEM BEYOND THEIR REACH TEACHER MAGAZINE MIKE KERSIES

ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT HIS STUDENTS COULD DO ANYTHING EVEN ATTEND THE PRESTIGIOUS SPACE CAMP IN HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA WHERE SOME OF AMERICA S
BEST AND BRIGHTEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPERIENCED BY NASA ASTRONAUTS TRAINING FOR
SHUTTLE MISSIONS THE CHALLENGE WAS CONVINCING EVERYONE ELSE THAT THE KIDS IN HIS SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASS WITH DISABILITIES INCLUDING TOURETTE S
SYNDROME DOWN S SYNDROME DYSLEXIA EATING DISORDERS AND A VARIETY OF EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE EXPERIENCE AND SUCCEED WITH
REMARKABLE PERSISTENCE KERSJES BROKE DOWN ONE BARRIER AFTER ANOTHER FROM HIS OWN PRINCIPAL S OFFICE TO THE INNER SANCTUM OF NASA UNTIL SPACE
CAMP FINALLY OPENED ITS DOORS AFTER NINE MONTHS OF RIGOROUS PREPARATION KERSJES S CLASS ARRIVED AT SPACE CAMP WHERE THEY TURNED IN A
PERFORMANCE BEYOND EVERYONE S EXPECTATIONS A TESTAMENT TO HOW PERSEVERANCE CAN GET RESULTS AND HOW CHILDREN CAN PERFORM SURPRISING FEATS IN
A SYSTEM THAT DOESN T ALWAYS WORK TO HELP CHILDREN PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE KERSJES S REFRESHING HEART WARMING ACCOUNT PROVES THAT FAITH
AND VISION CAN YIELD GREAT THINGS PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A VISIONARY HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AND HIS AWARD WINNING STUDENTS AS THEY TRY TO GET INTO COLLEGE LAND A DATE FOR THE PROM AND POSSIBLY CHANGE THE WORLD A COMPLEX PORTRAIT OF THE UPS AND DOWNS OF TEACHING IN A CULTURE THAT UNDERVALUES WHAT TEACHING DELIVERS THE WALL STREET IOURNAL ANDY BRAMANTE LEFT HIS SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS A CORPORATE SCIENTIST TO TEACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND NOW HELMS ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE CLASSROOMS IN AMERICA BRAMANTE S UNCONVENTIONAL CLASS AT CONNECTICUT S PRESTIGIOUS YET DIVERSE GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL HAS NO CURRICULUM TESTS TEXTBOOKS OR LECTURES AND IS EQUAL PARTS ELITE RESEARCH LAB STUDENT COUNSELING OFFICE AND TEENAGE HANGOUT SPOT UNITED BY A PASSION TO LEARN MR B S BAND OF WHIZ KIDS SET OUT EVERY YEAR TO CONQUER THE BRUTALLY COMPETITIVE SCIENCE FAIR CIRCUIT THEY HAVE WON THE TOP PRIZE AT THE GOOGLE SCIENCE FAIR MADE DISCOVERIES THAT ELUDED SCIENTISTS THREE TIMES THEIR AGE AND BEEN INVITED TO THE NOBEL PRIZE CEREMONY IN STOCKHOLM A FORMER EMMY WINNING PRODUCER FOR CBS NEWS HEATHER WON TESORIERO EMBEDS IN THIS DYNAMIC CLASS TO BRING ANDY AND HIS GIFTED ALL TOO HUMAN KIDS TO LIFE INCLUDING WILLIAM A PRODIGY SO DRIVEN THAT HE S TRYING TO INVENT DIAGNOSTICS FOR ARTERY BLOCKAGE AND ALZHEIMER S BUT CAN T QUITE FIGURE OUT HOW TO ORDER A BAGEL ETHAN WHO ESSENTIALLY OUTGROWS HIGH SCHOOL IN HIS JUNIOR YEAR AND FOUNDS HIS OWN COMPANY TO COMMERCIALIZE A DISCOVERY HE MADE IN THE CLASS SOPHIA A LYME DISEASE PATIENT WHOSE AMBITIOUS WORK IS DEDICATED TO CURING HER OWN DEBILITATING AILMENT ROMANO A FOOTBALL PLAYER WHO HANGS UP HIS HELMET TO PURSUE HIS SECRET SCIENCE EXPERTISE AND DEVELOP A SMART LIQUID BANDAGE AND OLIVIA WHOSE INVENTION OF A FAST TEST FOR EBOLA BROUGHT HER SCIENCE FAIR FAME AND AN APPEARANCE ON THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT WE EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF DISCOVERY THE HEARTBREAK OF FAILED ENDEAVORS AND PERHAPS THE ULTIMATE HIGH A YES FROM HARVARD MOVING FUNNY AND UTTERLY ENGROSSING THE CLASS IS A SUPERB ACCOUNT OF HARD WORK AND HIGH SPIRITS A STIRRING TRIBUTE TO HOW ESSENTIAL SCIENCE IS IN OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR LIVES AND A HEARTFELT TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF A GREAT TEACHER TO HELP KIDS REALIZE THEIR UNLIMITED POTENTIAL PRAISE FOR THE CLASS CAPTIVATING JOURNALIST TESORIERO LEFT HER JOB AT CBS NEWS TO EMBED HERSELF IN BRAMANTE S CLASSROOM FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND SHE DOES THIS SO SUCCESSFULLY A READER FORGETS SHE IS EVEN THERE HER SKILL AT DRAWING OUT NOT ONLY BRAMANTE BUT ALSO THE PERSONAL LIVES HOPES AND CONCERNS OF THESE STUDENTS IS IMPRESSIVE IT IS A FASCINATING GLIMPSE OF A TEACHING ENVIRONMENT THAT MOST PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL NEVER KNOW THE WASHINGTON POST

WHAT DO ROCK STARS NOBEL LAUREATES BESTSELLING NOVELISTS ASTRONAUTS AND ATTORNEYS HAVE IN COMMON A TEACHER CHANGED THEIR LIVES LIKE THEM MOST OF US CAN NAME A TEACHER WHO GAVE US NOT ONLY GOOD INSTRUCTION BUT ALSO CONFIDENCE AND DRIVE BUT IN THE FACE OF TEACHERS BEING BLAMED FOR A VARIETY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WOES TEACHERS THEMSELVES CAN EASILY WONDER WHETHER THEY ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN STUDENTS LIVES WHEN VETERAN TEACHER BRUCE HOLBERT ASKED HIMSELF THIS QUESTION HIS WIFE HOLLY RESPONDED BY SENDING LETTERS TO HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE SHE HAD NEVER MET AND HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE WOULD RESPOND ASKING ABOUT TEACHERS WHO MATTERED TO THEM SHE WAS OVERWHELMED BY ANSWERS THANK YOU TEACHER PRESENTS MORE THAN EIGHTY OF THESE UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL STORIES BY A DELIGHTFULLY DIVERSE RANGE OF CONTRIBUTORS THESE ESSAYS ARE WISE AND WITTY TESTAMENTS TO THE TEACHERS WHO DO WHAT THEY DO EVERY DAY WITHOUT EXPECTING RECOGNITION BUT WHO SO RICHLY DESERVE IT

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 FILIPOVI? 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

IN BROOKLYN DREAMS SONIA NIETO ONE OF THE LEADING AUTHORS AND TEACHERS IN THE FIELD OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION LOOKS BACK ON HER FORMATIVE EXPERIENCES AS A STUDENT ACTIVIST AND EDUCATOR AND SHOWS HOW THEY REFLECT AND ILLUMINATE THE THEMES OF HER LIFE S WORK NIETO OFFERS A POIGNANT ACCOUNT OF HER CHILDHOOD AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF NAVIGATING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE RICH CULTURE OF HER WORKING CLASS PUERTO RICAN FAMILY AND THE WORLD OF SCHOOL BROOKLYN DREAMS ALSO CHRONICLES HER EXPERIENCES AS A FLEDGLING TEACHER AT THE FIRST BILINGUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL IN NEW YORK CITY IN THE MIDST OF THE OCEAN HILL BROWNSVILLE STRIKE AND THE HEADY DAYS OF ACTIVISM DURING THE FOUNDING OF THE BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE AND LATER IN ESTABLISHING AND RUNNING AN ALTERNATIVE MULTICULTURAL SCHOOL IN AMHERST MASSACHUSETTS ALONG THE WAY NIETO REFLECTS ON THE IDEAS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO INFLUENCED HER WORK FROM JONATHAN KOZOL TO PAULO FREIRE AND TALKS FRANKLY ABOUT THE LIMITS OF ACTIVISM THE FAILURES OF SCHOOL REFORM AND THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF WORKING WITH PRESERVICE AND IN SERVICE EDUCATORS TO DEEPEN THEIR APPRECIATION OF DIVERSITY BROOKLYN DREAMS IS AN INTIMATE ACCOUNT OF AN EDUCATOR S LIFE LIVED WITH ZEST GENEROSITY AND WARMTH

AT THE END OF THE BUS RIDE A TEACHER S TALE IS AN INSIDE VIEW OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION IN THE DISTRICTS WHERE JANET MORGAN TAUGHT OVER A PERIOD OF TWO AND A HALF DECADES MORGAN SHEDS A STARK AND CHILLING LIGHT ON HOW BLACK STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS FARED WHEN THE BUS RIDE CAME TO AN END AND THEY WALKED INTO A NEW AND SOMETIMES HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT WITH WIT AND POETRY MORGAN ARTFULLY SHARES STORIES AND ANECDOTES FILLED WITH THE COMEDY TRAGEDY AND ABSURDITIES OF RACE THAT FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE SCHOOL WITH BOMBAST THE MOST HOPEFUL AND INSPIRING PIECES OF THE STORY CAME FROM INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS DRAWN INTO THE CONTROVERSY JANET MORGAN ENDURED A LENGTHY SUSPENSION FROM HER TEACHING POSITION BUT DISTINGUISHED HERSELF AS THE TEACHER SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACADEMIC FREEDOM STANDARD FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

HOW I SURVIVED THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF TEACHING IS ABOUT THE STRUGGLES AN EDUCATOR FACED AND HOW SHE OVERCAME THOSE STRUGGLES IN HER EARLY DAYS OF TEACHING THE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE CHALLENGES SHE FACED AFTER GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE AND THE DIFFICULTIES SHE ENCOUNTERED TRYING TO ACQUIRE HER FIRST TEACHING JOB IT THEN TAKES THE READER THROUGH THE DIFFERENT OBSTACLES SHE CONFRONTED EACH SCHOOL YEAR ITS A DETAILED ACCOUNT ABOUT HOW SHE ENDURED AND OVERCAME STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR AND DISRESPECT A LACK OF SUPPORT AND COOPERATION FROM HER PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL DISRESPECT FROM PARENTS LACK OF PARENTAL SUPPORT LACK OF STUDENT MOTIVATION AND HER BATTLE WITH DEPRESSION

TEACHERS CAN HELP US TO BECOME MORE THAN WE EVER DREAMED POSSIBLE IN A SPIRIT OF SELFLESS GENEROSITY THAT IS REMARKABLY RARE IN OUR WORLD TODAY TOO OFTEN THIS GENEROSITY GOES UNRECOGNIZED BUT HERE IS A COLLECTION OF QUOTES THAT TRULY HONORS TEACHERS AND THE NOBLE WORK THAT THEY DO INCLUDED ARE THE WORDS OF SOME OF THE GREATEST STUDENTS TEACHERS AND THINKERS IN HISTORY INCLUDING HELEN KELLER OSCAR WILDE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE AND CHRISTA MCAULIFFE THIS LOVELY BOOK WILL GIVE ANYONE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANK YOU TO A SPECIAL TEACHER WHO HAS TOUCHED HIS OR HER LIFE

LOVE MARY B A TEACHER S GIFT IS AN INSPIRING AND CHALLENGING JOURNEY THROUGH TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY AS NARRATED THROUGH THE LETTERS OF A GIFTED TEACHER AND IMPASSIONED ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AT ITS HEART IT IS ALSO A CELEBRATION OF ALL WHO RESPOND TO THE CALLING TO BE A TEACHER SO ELOQUENTLY HONORED THROUGH LEONARD BERNSTEIN S QUOTE TEACHING IS THE NOBLEST MOST UNSELFISH MOST HONORABLE PROFESSION IN HER LETTERS MARY B GUIDES US THROUGH HER LIFE BEGINNING IN THE EARLY NINETEEN HUNDREDS AS IT MIRRORS THE EDUCATIONAL EVOLUTION IN AMERICA THROUGH HER CHARMING AND POIGNANT TALES WE ARE WELCOMED INTO A WORLD WHERE SHE WEAVES THREADS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH HER GRANDMOTHER A TEACHER FROM THE NINETEENTH CENTURY WITH HER OWN EXPERIENCES MARY B S STORY IS ALSO DRAMATICALLY HEIGHTENED BY A LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WHO INSPIRED HER WORK AS AN URBAN COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND ALSO CULMINATED IN BEING A FIRST HAND WITNESS TO THE SEPTEMBER 1 TRAGEDY IN NEW YORK CITY AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND WE ARE INVITED TO FIND OUR SEAT IN HER CLASSROOM WITH COUNTLESS STUDENTS IN LEARNING THE ALPHABET OUR NUMBERS OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD AND MOST IMPORTANTLY HOW TO SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THESE RECOLLECTIONS A TAPESTRY OF HUMOR TRAGEDY AND HOPE UNFOLDS TO SPARK READERS MEMORIES OF LONG FORGOTTEN AND CHERISHED SCHOOL DAYS AND TEACHERS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THIS GIFTED TEACHER HAS TOUCHED COUNTLESS LIVES IN HER LETTERS OF HOPE AND JOY

AS WELL AS THE DRAMATIC STAGE RE ENACTMENT OF HER LIFE BY AWARD WINNING ACTRESS BARBARA BOURGEOIS AS YOU NOW OPEN THE DOOR TO HER CLASSROOM THROUGH THESE PAGES YOU TOO WILL BE WELCOMED INTO THIS NEW WORLD TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE MARY B

THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SPENDS OVER 5000 HOURS IN SCHOOL DURING THE FOUR YEARS IT TAKES TO EARN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA THEY INTERACT WITH COUNTLESS ADULTS THROUGHOUT THIS EXPERIENCE BUT ARE THEY EVER TRULY KNOWN THIS QUESTION ECHOED THROUGH MICHELLE MULLER S MIND FOR WEEKS AS SHE STRUGGLED TO ADJUST TO HER FIRST YEAR TEACHING 10th grade english in the urban core of Kansas City mo on a whim one morning she decided to make sure that every student in her class had the opportunity to be known and understood what followed was something she never could have predicted and it absolutely transformed the culture of her classroom with her students permission she is now giving voice to the honest beauty of their work in hopes that others will be just as inspired to love their neighbor with the reckless abandon required to heal a community one life at a time

ROBERT JOHN MEEHAN S POETIC INSIGHT INTO THE HEART AND SOUL OF BOTH TEACHER AND STUDENT TUGS AT READERS EMOTIONS LIKE FEW WRITERS CAN HIS DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE AS A TEACHER IN SOME OF THE NATION S MOST DIFFICULT SCHOOLS OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR DECADES IS DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN EACH OF HIS SELECTIONS OF POETRY HIS ABILITY TO SHARE THE JOY SORROWS AND AT TIMES THE HORROR OF TEACHING IN TODAY S INNER CITY SCHOOLS IS BROUGHT TO THE FOREFRONT IN EACH OF THE POEMS INCLUDED IN HIS THE TEACHER S JOURNEY MEEHAN HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH OVER THE PAST DECADES IN ENCOURAGING OTHER TEACHERS TO SHARE THEIR FEELINGS EMOTIONS AND EXPERIENCES IN WORKING WITH STUDENTS FOLLOW MEEHAN AS HE INSPIRES STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALIKE IN THE TEACHER S JOURNEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF BEING AN AUTHENTICALLY EFFECTIVE TEACHER

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