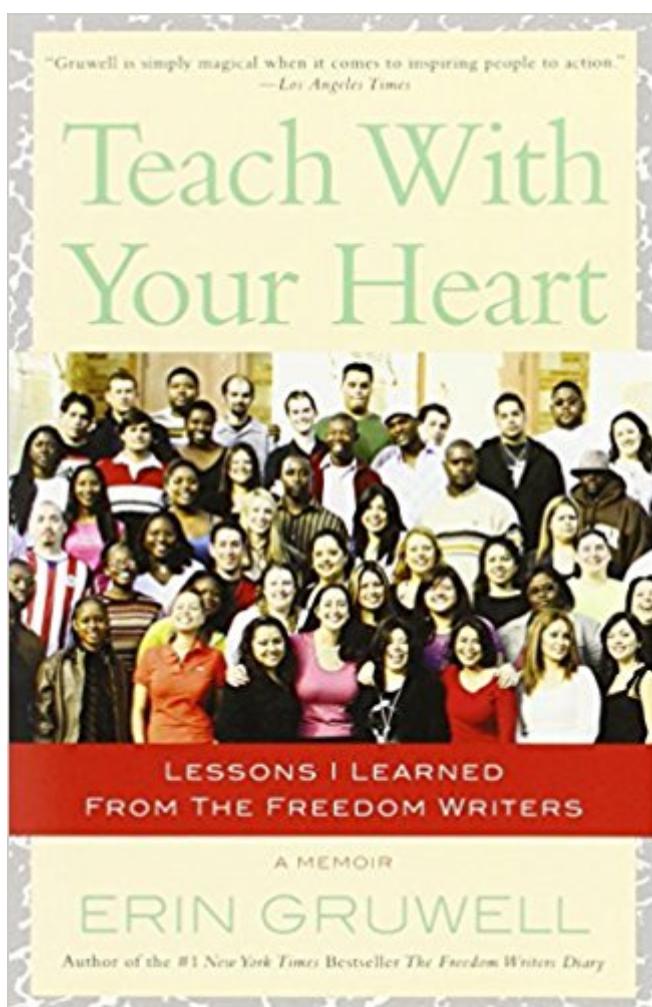


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# Teach With Your Heart: Lessons I Learned From The Freedom Writers



## **Synopsis**

In this passionate, poignant, and deeply personal memoir and call to arms, Erin Gruwell, the dynamic young teacher who nurtured a remarkable 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 The 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 Filipovic, 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 remarkable 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 is Erin Gruwell and her unbelievable determination to ensure that education in the United States truly meets the needs of every student.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

“Erin is a true inspiration and an example of the extraordinary difference one person can make in the world. She continues to transform the lives of students across the country through her

work and The Freedom Writers Foundation. Ms. G., as the kids called her, embraced a concept that has been lost in modern life: writing can make pain tolerable, confusion clearer, and the self stronger. Ms. Anna Quindlen, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Rise and Shine*

ERIN GRUWELL, the Freedom Writers, and her nonprofit organization, The Freedom Writers Foundation, have received many awards, including the prestigious Spirit of Anne Frank Award, and have appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Primetime, Good Morning America, and The View, to name a few. Erin Gruwell is also a charismatic motivational speaker who spreads her dynamic message to students, teachers, and business people around the world. She lives in southern California.

Oh my goodness, this book definitely exceeded my expectations! I was so inspired and motivated by this book! Anyone who wants to be a teacher, is a teacher, loves kids, or loves a good moving book should definitely read this book! I will warn you though this book is almost guaranteed to make anyone with a heart cry a few times while reading it! If you get this book make sure to also check out The Freedom Writers movie and The Freedom Writers Diary since they are talked about a lot in this book. If you've already watched the movie and read the diary and loved them, then definitely read this book because it gives a lot more insight than both the movie and the diary give.

This book, I believe, is a must-read for all teachers. It demonstrates the powerful and far-reaching influence of a teacher who made it her primary aim to nurture her students' ethical ideal and passionately dedicated herself to this aim. Our educational system has much to learn from Erin Gruwell and her students. If you are an educator, I highly recommend that you read this book. It will give you hope and inspire you to be a better teacher and human being. I would like to respond to the two previous reviewers' critiques of Erin and her book. First of all, studies have indicated that students do better when they stay with each other and with the same teacher (assuming the teacher is a caring one) for an extended period of time, the longer the better. Erin and her students must have recognized this truth and her example proved this hypothesis quite well. Secondly, so what if Erin only taught for four or five years? I speculate that the difference she made in the lives of her 150 students in those four years is more significant and lasting than the contribution some teachers make to their students in a 20 or 30-year long career. Erin is serving our society and our students on

a larger scale by speaking and providing training to teachers on a methodology that yielded astounding success. I don't think she left teaching because she was "burned out". She was smart enough to know that she could serve the world more effectively in a different capacity. And this one is to the reviewer who called Erin's book "self-serving and trite". Like you, I am sure all of us--as teachers--have spent our own money on our students and felt that every dime has been worthwhile. However, I don't know how many of us has actually worked a second or third job like Erin to cover our students' expenses. Erin is SELFLESS and anything but "self-serving". I am saddened that this extraordinary teacher has been so harshly criticized for what I consider an extraordinary act of love.

Every teacher needs to read this. Even more so in today's world!

Excellent!

This book gives examples of how to teach from your heart. If you truly seek to engage your students in an effective manner - READ THIS BOOK!! If you can already reach your students in an effective manner I still encourage you to - READ THIS BOOK! I like to think of myself as an effective teacher. I am a Mexican-American male Language Arts Teacher with a profound background, having lived at several socioeconomic levels myself. I am blessed with the ability to identify with students at many levels on their terms. I gained so much more understanding concerning how to reach out to the students who you feel are largely at risk.

This book was in excellent condition. Even the book cover was intact with no tears or markings.

Erin Gruwell is an amazing person. She was able to reach her tough students and make connections with them that "the system" had written off. Much as people would like to deny it, there is racism in our schools. If given a chance, I think that all kids can succeed. It's the stereotypes and told that you're stupid that brings a lot of these kids down. Poverty and their domestic situations don't help in the least either. Erin saw through everything and at such a young age! I believe it's people like her that truly change the world for the better.

Inspirational - What a role model! So much for educators to learn from her!

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