

WILLIAM AYERS
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TO TEACH

the journey, in comics

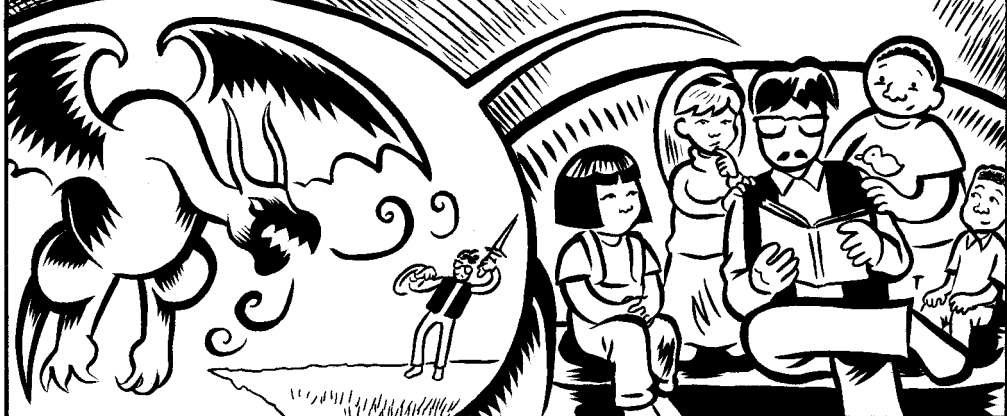


FOREWORD BY JONATHAN KOZOL

BUT SKATEBOARDS AND RAPPING SOLVE ALL YOUR CLASSROOM PROBLEMS ONLY IN THE MOVIES. I ENJOY A TRIP TO THE CINEMA AS MUCH AS ANYONE, BUT PROJECTING SILVER SCREEN MYTHS ONTO OUR STUDENTS OBSCURES THE PATH TO DISCOVERY. IN ORDER TO FIND YOUR WAY, YOU MUST TURN THE PROJECTOR AROUND AND SEARCH WITHIN.



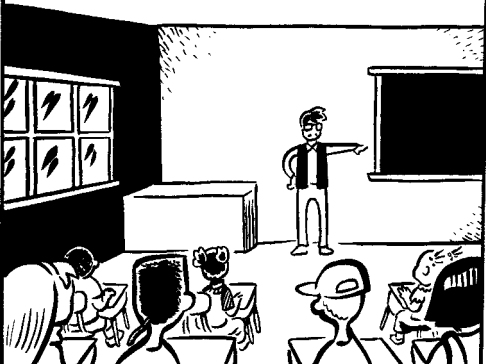
MYTHS TOWER ABOVE THE WORLD OF TEACHING LIKE GIANT, FIRE-BREATHING DRAGONS. SOMEHOW TEACHERS NEED TO SLAY THESE CREATURES IN ORDER TO MOVE FROM MYTH TO REALITY.



GREATNESS IN TEACHING, TOO, REQUIRES A SERIOUS ENCOUNTER WITH AUTOBIOGRAPHY. WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU COME TO TAKE ON YOUR VIEWS AND OUTLOOKS? WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR YOU TO BE 6? WHERE ARE YOU HEADING? OF ALL THE KNOWLEDGE TEACHERS NEED TO DRAW ON, SELF-KNOWLEDGE IS MOST IMPORTANT.



GREATNESS IN TEACHING REQUIRES GETTING OVER THE NOTION THAT IT'S SETS OF TECHNIQUES OR METHODS... LOTS OF FOLKS WRITE ADEQUATE LESSON PLANS, KEEP ORDER, DELIVER INSTRUCTION—AND ARE LOUSY TEACHERS.



GREATNESS IN TEACHING ENGAGES STUDENTS, INTERACTS WITH THEM, DRAWS ENERGY AND DIRECTION FROM THEM, AND OFFERS REASONS TO PLUNGE INTO CLASSROOM LIFE.



GREATNESS IN TEACHING IS ALWAYS IN PURSUIT OF THE NEXT CHALLENGE, THE NEXT ENCOUNTER... GREATNESS DEMANDS AN OPENNESS TO THE NEW AND THE UNIQUE. FOR GREAT TEACHERS, IT MUST ALWAYS BE "HERE I GO AGAIN."



THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THINGS TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS, MANY OF WHICH ARE DISCOVERED AS NEEDED.



...OR, ON THE LAST DAY OF MY 1ST SEMESTER TEACHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS HOW TO DRAW COMICS, I TOOK THEM OUTSIDE FOR FREE PLAY...

