

Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms

By Gloria Ladson-Billings

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"Gloria Ladson-Billings provides a perceptive and interesting account of what is needed to prepare novice teachers to be successful with all students in our multicultural society. This book is must reading for all those entering the profession of teaching today and for those who prepare them for this important work."
--Ken Zeichner, associate dean and professor of curriculum and instruction, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"The multiple voices in Gloria Ladson-Billings's book are compelling, provocative, and insightful-they provide a powerful 'insider' perspective on what it really means to learn to teach all children well."
--Marilyn Cochran-Smith, professor of education and editor, Journal of Teacher Education, Boston College, School of Education

"Ladson-Billings, one of the stellar researchers and most passionate advocates for social justice, has written yet another masterpiece. By weaving the novice teachers' voices, her personal teaching journey, and language rich in compelling research and inspiring metaphors, Ladson-Billings has documented how new teachers transform schools and teach poor children of color."
--Jacquline Jordan Irvine, Candler Professor of Urban Education, Emory University, Division of Educational Studies

"Masterful teacher and teacher-educator Gloria Ladson-Billings has given us--in highly readable form--a brilliant vision of what teacher education might become. In Crossing Over to Canaan we get a glimpse of how a carefully constructed teacher education program focused on teaching for social justice can produce excellent teaching, even by young, middle-class teachers-in-training, in diverse educational settings."
--Lisa D. Delpit, Benjamin E. Mays Professor of Educational Leadership, Georgia State University

The author of the best-selling book The Dreamkeepers shows how teachers can succeed in diverse classrooms. Educating teachers to work well in multicultural

classrooms has become an all-important educational priority in today's schools. In Crossing Over to Canaan, Gloria Ladson-Billings details the real-life stories of eight novice teachers participating in an innovative teacher education program called Teach for Diversity. She details their struggles and triumphs as they confront challenges in the classroom and respond with innovative strategies that turn cultural strengths into academic assets. Through their experiences, Ladson-Billings illustrates how good teachers can meet the challenges of teaching students from highly diverse backgrounds--and find a way to "cross over to Canaan." She offers a model of teaching that focuses on academic achievement, cultural competence, and socio-political consciousness.

Drawing from her own experiences as a young African-American teacher working in Philadelphia, she successfully weaves together narrative, observation, and scholarship to create an inspirational and practical book that will help teachers everywhere as they work to transcend labels and categories to support excellence among all students.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
Today's teacher certification programs make an honest effort to prepare teachers for multicultural classrooms, but Ladson-Billings (The Dreamkeepers) argues that most programs don't do enough to foster "culturally relevant pedagogy." In this ethnographic study, she describes Teach for Diversity (TFD), an experimental graduate program at the University of Wisconsin, which recruited participants whose ethnic backgrounds or experiences had given them a solid commitment to social justice and equality. She follows one group of TFD participants during their practicum at an inner-city school. While the challenges the new teachers overcome, as well as the author's memories of her own initiation into teaching three decades ago, make for compelling reading, most of the book is centered around the structure, development, and underlying philosophy of the program. Though hardly groundbreaking, this study offers practical advice for both new teachers and administrators and would be an excellent choice for supplementary reading in multicultural education programs. Susan M. Colowick, North Olympic Lib. Syst., Port Angeles, WA
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Review
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Hennessy:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The particular Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms is kind of reserve which is giving the reader erratic experience.

John Valdez:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a problem. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms as your daily resource information.

Elizabeth Black:

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