



Rhythm and Resistance: Teaching Poetry for Social Justice

By Linda Christensen, Dyan Watson, Renée Watson, Bob Peterson, Kelly Norman Ellis, Elizabeth Schlessman-Barbian, Katharine Johnson, Shwayla James, Heidi Tolentino, Willie Perdomo, Kelly J. Gomes, Tom McKenna, Patricia Smith

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Rhythm and Resistance offers practical lessons about how to teach poetry to build community, understand literature and history, talk back to injustice, and construct stronger literacy skills across content areas and grade levels from elementary school to graduate school. *Rhythm and Resistance* reclaims poetry as a necessary part of a larger vision of what it means to teach for justice.

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Editorial Review

Review

At a time when teachers feel under attack from policymakers searching for ways to raise student achievement and insure school safety, the authors of *Rhythm and Resistance* show us how easily both objectives can be pursued if we simply open up opportunities for students to write about their lives and share their stories with each other. This powerful and practical collection of essays shows educators how to engage and empower their students through strategies that inspire them to develop a love of learning. Teachers who can do that will experience the joy and power of teaching even during these trying times in education.

--**Pedro A. Noguera**, Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education; Executive Director, Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools, New York University

There are far too few books written on teaching by people that have actually earned the right to write about teaching. In *Rhythm and Resistance* we have just such a book, striking a powerful balance between theory and practice, edging the two ever closer together in ways that will profoundly impact the day-to-day work of countless teachers. This book has me wondering aloud, again, about why the voices of our nation's most gifted classroom educators are so muted in policy and practice discussions about the direction of our field.

--**Jeff Duncan-Andrade**, Associate Professor of Raza Studies and Education, San Francisco State University

The power of poetry has never been so eloquently revealed as in this powerful collection of writing from poets both famous and unknown. Add to this the stirring words of Linda Christensen and Dyan Watson and we have a book that will move teachers and their students to speak their truths and to know that their words, their thoughts, and their lives matter. --**Sonia Nieto**, Professor Emerita, Language, Literacy, and Culture, University of Massachusetts Amherst

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