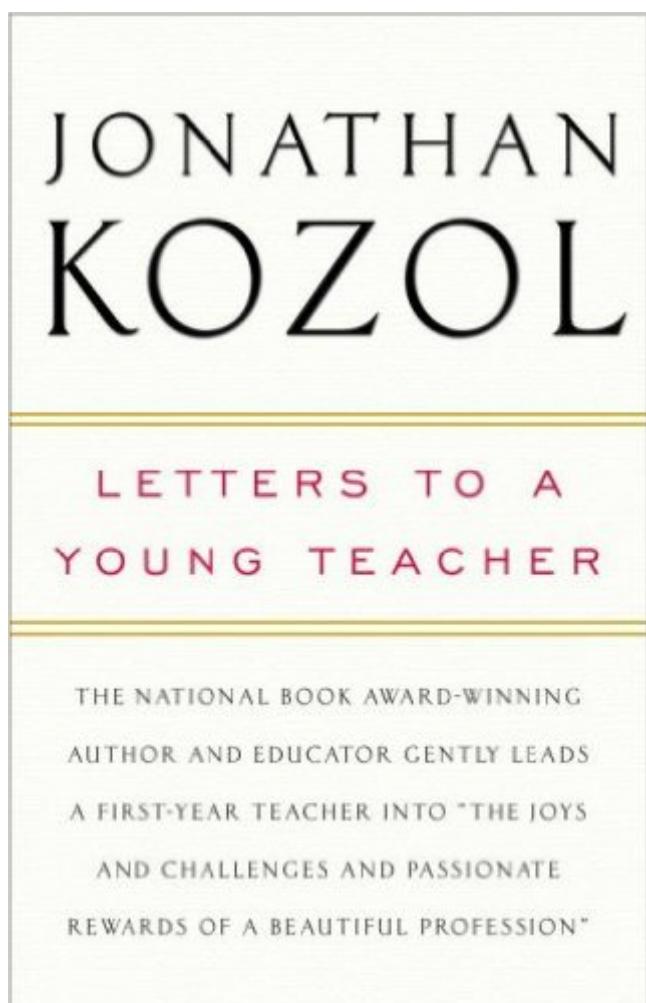


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Letters To A Young Teacher



Synopsis

This is the book for readers of Jonathan Kozol's previous works on education, including *The Shame of the Nation* and *On Being a Teacher*; for readers of memoirs like Frank McCourt's *Teacher Man*; for new teachers looking for guidance and inspiration; and for educators, administrators, and children's advocates of all levels of experience. From the award-winning author of bestsellers *Shame of the Nation*, *Savage Inequalities*, *Amazing Grace*, *Death at an Early Age*, and *Ordinary Resurrections*, Jonathan Kozol's most personally insightful and revealing work to date takes the form of encouraging letters to Francesca, a young classroom teacher, offering advice, personal stories, and a shared sense of outrage at the inadequacies of America's educational system.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a teacher, among other things, and always looking to do better in that part of my career. And, although I've been teaching for a number of years, I consider myself inexperienced and eager to learn from others' experience. Reading this book brought at least three surprises: the first, something of a disappointment; the second, an overwhelming sense of admiration; the third, a furious outrage. I teach at the college level - mostly grad students, so far, but an undergrad class this term. My disappointment lay in finding that this describes the experiences of an early-primary teacher. Her 'leaky little people,' the six year olds in her classes, have little in common with my students. I already know I lack the patience to work well with a room full of small children, so I almost put the book down when I found out how it was oriented. It just doesn't say a lot to my

experience or aspirations. Still, I persevered. That led to the second and most rewarding of the surprises I found in this book. I genuinely admire anyone with talents I lack, the knack for effectiveness with children being just one. Still, reading this gave me a new and more profound respect for those thousands of women and men who, outside of family, are the most important people in our children's lives. I know that people find themselves drawn to teaching young children. I didn't understand just how deep within a person lies the source of that urge. Kozol's letters to a real but pseudonymous Francesca show that in two ways. First, the passion to teach, to be part of children's lives, is as omnipresent in their worlds as air and gravity are in mine - and as essential to their lives.

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