Must Read Books for Teachers in 2019
Owning It: Proven Strategies to Ace and Embrace Teaching by Alex Kajitani

Alex Kajitani, teacher, speaker and author, brings you motivation AND tools for immediate use to increase your teacher effectiveness! He covers essential topics like leading/engaging your classroom, managing collegial relationships, and raising the profile of teachers and schools in the public eye. Through practical essays and expert advice, Alex Kajitani will provide support and strategies to strengthen your teaching practices and the entire teaching profession. If you are going to be, are or ever were a teacher, this is the book for you!

Reading to Make a Difference: Using Literature to Help Students Speak Freely, Think Deeply, and Take Action by Lester Laminack and Katie Kelly

This is a great text for teachers who want to incorporate diverse literature into their classroom practices. Chock full of examples, activities, book suggestions and much more, this resource will have you moving beyond the old “food, festivals, and folklore” focus to using literature as a catalyst for social action. The authors have done an excellent job of providing opportunities to meld literacy, culturally responsive teaching practices, and equity while ensuring the book is helpful for early childhood teachers all the way up to college professors. Reading to Make a Difference would serve as an excellent text for a team book study!

We Got This.: Equity, Access, and the Quest to Be Who Our Students Need Us to Be by Cornelius Minor

Author Cornelius Minor moves us beyond reading and math to truly listen to learners to address serious issues in educational equity like racism, sexism, ableism, and classism TOGETHER. While these might not be easy topics to discuss, Minor does an excellent job of providing a transparent look at strategies that will move educators in the right direction, including lesson planning to ensure access and equity, advocacy strategies, and even suggestions for leaning into classroom community when it feels like the kids are against you. This book will push you a bit, but it will definitely leave you feeling like you can make a difference.
**Leverage Leadership 2.0: A Practical Guide to Building Exceptional Schools 2nd Edition by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo**

This text hits on all the key components for school leaders or teachers wanting to move into leadership. Covering topics like data-driven instruction, delivery of effective feedback, and choosing topics for professional development, the author provides the reason, the information, and an implementation plan for each. The additional Action Planning Worksheets at the end of each chapter provide an excellent starting point for initiating change in schools. This book is a must read for leaders and will remain on your bookshelf for years to come…maybe tattered and worn from use!

**The Emotionally Connected Classroom by Bill Adair**

Author Bill Adair brings us a solid teacher text focused on methods for reaching EVERY SINGLE STUDENT by building connections. The text gives insight and information on critical and relevant topics for teaching in today’s world like suicide, gaming addiction, and mental health. Most importantly, though, the book provides educators a framework to connect to learners through the six Ps of People, Purpose, Play, Passion, Present Thinking, and Personal Challenge and Learning! This is a solid anchor text for building-level work around social and emotional learning.

**Keep CALM and Teach: Empowering K-12 Learners with Positive Classroom Management Routines by Victoria Lentfer**

This fantastic book provides an easy to remember method for responding to behavior in the classroom using Communication, Accountability, Leadership, and Motivation (CALM). The author has provided a text that any teacher, new or experienced, in any classroom can use immediately. Simple, yet effective! You will not be disappointed with this book filled with quick wins, key takeaways, and research-based practices.
Building Resilience in Students Impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences: A Whole-Staff Approach by Victoria E. Romero and Ricky Robertson

It’s time for education to move from discussing Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma to working collaboratively to build resilience in learners. This new book will help your team/school do just that through a workbook style layout providing many opportunities for readers to independently and collaboratively learn, reflect, and apply new found strategies in classrooms and buildings to positively impact students. Resilience is powerful, and you are in a great position to help learners build it, overcome past experiences, and succeed!

What School Could Be: Insights and Inspirations from Teachers Across America by Ted Dintersmith

Author Ted Dintersmith set out on a school-year-long journey to see how America’s schools are responding to the technological changes taking place around them; instead, he discovered how schools are making small changes for big impact. Ted shares stories of his travels across the U.S. and his encounters with ordinary teachers who have done extraordinary things! He was impacted by the innovation, deep learning, and joy he witnessed time after time during each visit. If you want to read a positive, optimistic book about what America’s schools can become, a roadmap for getting there and how you can be involved, this book is for you!

Demonstrating Student Mastery with Digital Badges and Portfolios by David Niguidula

Learn all about using proficiency-based assessment, digital badges, and portfolios to personalize curriculum and instruction for each learner. This book explores the implementation process and provides real-life examples. It just makes sense to assess learning in a way that matches the trends taking place in the business world! The information lines right up with College and Career Readiness and might even motivate students more than high-stakes assessment!
Summarization in Any Subject: 60 Innovative Tech-Infused Strategies for Deeper Student Learning, 2nd Edition by Rick Wormeli and Dedra Stafford

Summarization is a powerful instructional strategy in ANY content area. Well known author Rick Wormeli and Dedra Stafford have provided an excellent resource for teachers providing new ways and methods to approach a valuable skill which students sometimes see as BORING! Brain science, humor, and applicability shine through in this text, and any teacher will benefit along with all students!

Uncover the Roots of Challenging Behavior by Michelle Salcedo, M.Ed

Behavior in the classroom is often identified as being one of the biggest challenges for teachers. This book does an excellent job of identifying the “roots” of behavior in early childhood learners and providing proactive, positive strategies to get in front of those challenges. This is a fantastic resource for any early childhood educator (up to approximately 2nd grade), and as an added bonus, it includes digital content for downloading and printing! Who doesn't love that?!

Nurturing Informed Thinking: Reading, Talking, and Writing Across Content-Area Sources by Sunday Cummins

Our society continues to need resourceful, educated critical thinkers. As an educator, part of our role is to develop student skills in these areas. This text provides you with a method for teaching students how to ask questions, seek out multiple sources, make sense of information, and communicate what they've learned orally and in writing. The author provides a practical framework for content area teachers to develop readers, writers, and thinkers!

Teach Like Yourself: How Authentic Teaching Transforms Our Students and Ourselves by Gravity Goldberg

Time to give yourself some credit and get intentional by thinking about why you became a teacher and all the gifts you can share with your students. Author Gravity Goldberg encourages you to find work-life balance, coach yourself, and fulfill your teaching potential without losing yourself. She uses stories, reflection questions, and even video to support the development of your own teacher agency and take care of your whole self. Every teacher needs to read this!