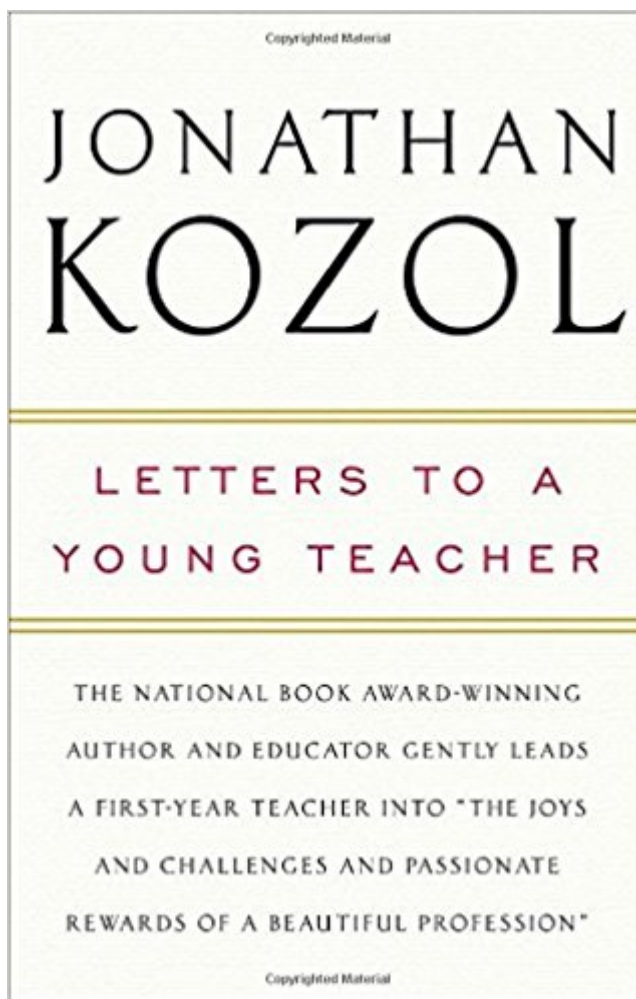


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# Letters To A Young Teacher



## 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

Starred Review. Forty years ago, *Death at an Early Age* catapulted Kozol into national prominence as a compassionate yet clearheaded observer of the rotten state of American education. His latest book reviews many of the basic issues he has spent his life exploring through teaching and writing. Here, he cleverly weaves his observations—as well as a thinly disguised biographical memoir—into a series of 16 letters written to Francesca, a first-grade teacher at an inner-city public school in Boston. Overall, the book will delight and encourage first-year (or for that matter, 40th-year) teachers who need Kozol's reminders of the ways that their beautiful profession can bring joy and beauty, mystery and mischievous delight into the hearts of little people in their years of greatest curiosity. But his encouraging words rarely lapse into treacle. In fact, he offers tough

observations on American education addressed to a larger audience. His forceful opinions are convincingly argued—most notably, that educational vouchers will deepen divisions between diverse groups in racially divided cities; that middle schools demoralize students and should be abolished entirely; and that the Gates Foundation made a damaging mistake in aggressively funding a small school craze that will reinforce the racial isolation of the students they enroll. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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Acclaimed author Kozol began a correspondence with Francesca, a young first-year teacher at an inner-city school in Boston. His letters offer a revealing, heartfelt look at the state of education and his own joy and agony in reporting on it. The letters provoke recollections of his early days as a teacher and, as a reporter, the humbling experience of visiting classes and maintaining relationships with the people on the frontlines of teaching, while he observes and writes. Kozol offers encouragement, advice, reflection, and admiration for all the teachers like Francesca, who pour their souls into their jobs. The letters explore the challenges of teaching in the inner cities: bureaucracies and standardized tests that take the creativity out of teaching; distrustful, defiant children who take away time and attention from those who want to learn; the heartbreaking irony of teaching diversity in schools that are clearly racially segregated. A beautiful book that offers an intimate look at the challenges and joys of teaching and one that will inspire and inform teachers and all those interested in public education. Bush, Vanessa --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Helpful teaching advice from someone who's been there and seen it all. The tips for communicating with parents and understanding where they come from sometimes were especially useful.

Sincere wisdom to impart to young teachers. This should be required reading for those in the field of education.

I am still reading this book and am finding it to be very helpful and engaging. It should be inspirational to both young and older teachers alike because it is very hopeful in the message that if the teacher is creative and positive and holds out high expectations for the child, the greatest degree of instruction and learning is nearly always possible to attain and everyone can feel fulfilled. No obstacle is too great to overcome with the right attitude and approach. Any teacher who needs a

boost or a push in the right direction should be encouraged to read this book!

At this writing, this book is averaging four stars in terms of reviews, and I think that's about right. As a high school English teacher, I found some sections--especially those regarding standardized testing and how public education does not address the needs of poor children--quite compelling and validating. However, as another reviewer mentioned, I had difficulty with Kozol's tone at times, which seems just a bit condescending and does not match the acceptance and warmth he alleges to share with children. Well, I suppose there are those of us who get on much better with young people than we do adults. I do appreciate Kozol's wisdom and especially his willingness to toss aside what administrators dictate and teach in a manner that is in the best interest of the children. That is perhaps the most abiding lesson in this book.

Book arrived in expected condition and was a wonderful read.

Very quick shipping and great customer service! About my experience with the book: I originally purchased this book for a class, and ended up reading again and again for my own pleasure. Kozol uses a narrative form of writing that makes this book accessible to many. Kozol's book describes situations of extreme adversity being faced by students in public schools and how teachers play an important part in those student's journeys with structural oppression. I found this book to have a profound effect on my opinions of teachers and their experiences with students who deal with oppressive forces or social inequalities. I am not a teacher but a sociologist and social worker, and still found this book to be very valuable.

Nice book

Our daughter needed this for a class & absolutely loved reading this book

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