ON MY BOOKSHELF

Kaia Stern, lecturer on education and co-founder and director of the Prison Studies Project

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING? Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Letters and Papers from Prison*.

WHAT DREW YOU TO IT? An interest in truth telling, faith, and religion taking on the properties of an empire.

FAVORITE BOOK FROM CHILDHOOD AND WHY YOU LOVED IT. *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats. I loved the illustrations, how the mother helped with the wet socks, and how the boy thought and thought about his adventures in a pink bathtub.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU’VE NEVER READ... The directions for various appliances in our home.


WAS THERE A FAVORITE BOOK YOU ASSIGNED TO STUDENTS WHEN YOU WERE TEACHING IN PRISONS? *Are Prisons Obsolete?* by Angela Davis. I assigned this book because it invited students to rethink the ways we punish and to reimagine justice. I especially appreciated conversation about her final chapter, “Abolitionist Alternatives.”

FAVORITE PLACE TO CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK? Near a fireplace or in a patch of sunlight.

NEXT UP: Danielle Sered’s book, *Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair*.

READER, COME HOME

Maryanne Wolf

Written as a series of long letters to the reader, *Reader, Come Home*, *MARYANNE WOLF, ED.D.’79*, uses historical, literary, and scientific sources, as well as her own experiences as director of the Center for Dyslexia. Diverse Learners, and Social Justice at UCLA, and (former) director of the Center for Reading and Language Research at Tufts University, to look at what is happening to reading and the reading brain as it adapts to a digital culture. “There is as much reason for excitement as caution as we turn our attention to the specific changes in the evolving reading brain that are happening now and may happen in different ways in a few short years,” she writes.

IN SEARCH OF DEEPER LEARNING

Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine

In *In Search of Deeper Learning* was not the book that Professor Lal Mehta and Sarah Fine, *ED.M.’13, ED.D.’17*, set out to write. Initially, they set out to study high schools that were truly engaging students, the ones that were helping students flourish. In an effort to figure out what made these exceptional schools tick, they spent more than 750 hours in 30 high schools, observing and interviewing students, teachers, parents, and administrators. The problem was, even at schools considered the best of the best when it came to deep learning, they found big gaps between aspiration and reality. The good news: They also found pockets of inspiration, in individual teachers, classrooms, electives, and extracurriculars.

Listen to Mehta and Fine on the Harvard EdCast: gse.harvard.edu/edcast

FOR A FULL LIST OF BOOKS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE: GSE.HARVARD.EDU/ED. IF YOU’RE PART OF THE ED SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND YOU’VE RECENTLY PUBLISHED A BOOK, LET US KNOW: BOOKNOTES@GSE.HARVARD.EDU
MAYBE TOMORROW?
Charlotte Agell

In her new picture book, author and educator CHARLOTTE AGELL, ED.M.’86, confronts a topic that is tough for anyone, but especially for children: the loss of someone they love. In Maybe Tomorrow?, which Agell says was inspired by her students, Elba, a tiny hippo, is dragging around a heavy block but isn’t quite sure why. Norris, an alligator, is always happy as a trail of butterflies follow him around. Norris realizes that there’s sadness in the block and through his friendship and empathy, helps Elba let go of the heaviness, at least a little, while still celebrating his lost friend, Little Bird.

THE ALLIANCE WAY
Tina Owen-Moore

She opened the first school with a mission of being completely bully-free. When TINA OWEN-MOORE, ED.L.D.’19, cofounded the Alliance School in Milwaukee in 2005, it was personal, having been bullied herself, but it was also more than that. “Almost everyone has a story about a time when they were bullied and didn’t want to go to school,” she writes in The Alliance Way: The Making of a Bully-Free School. The book is both a guide for educators and others who care about creating safe schools and a case study of how all schools can be accepting, inclusive, and academically challenging. “What we do at Alliance,” she writes, “can be done anywhere.”

Listen to Owen-Moore on the Harvard EdCast: gse.harvard.edu/edcast

THE LOST EDUCATION OF HORACE TATE
Vanessa Siddle Walker

In this nearly 500-page nonfiction book, historian and Emory University Professor VANESSA SIDDLE WALKER, ED.M.’85, ED.D.’88, tells the story of a network of heroic black educators in the South who helped lay the groundwork for Brown v. Board of Education and the civil rights movement, including providing the money, the data, and the plaintiffs for the NAACP to move forward with its legal cases. In writing her book, Siddle Walker says, “My hope is that this account assists a new generation to see what it might otherwise have missed.”

Listen to Siddle Walker on the Harvard EdCast: gse.harvard.edu/edcast