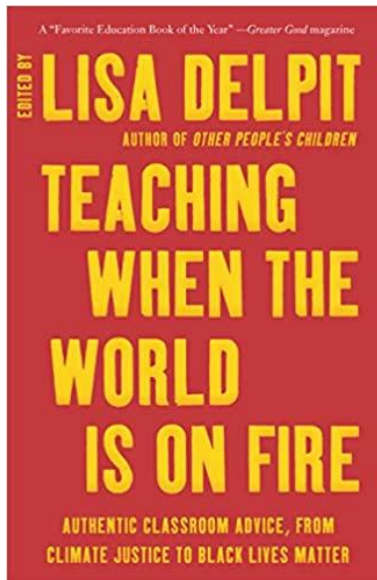
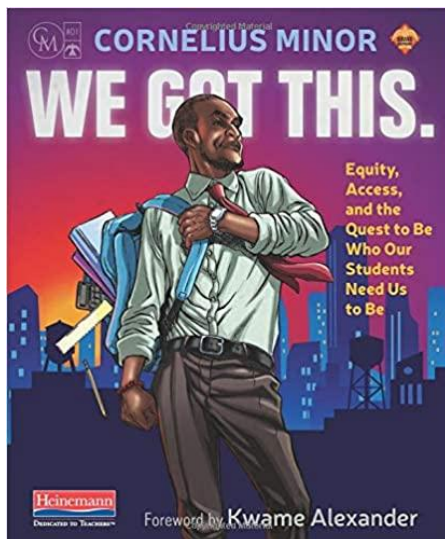




TEACHING WHEN THE WORLD IS ON FIRE

Read the first essay of the book, [“I Shall Create! Teaching toward Freedom” \(PDF\)](#) by William Ayers — or the first 5 ½ pages if you’re tight on time. As you do, consider:

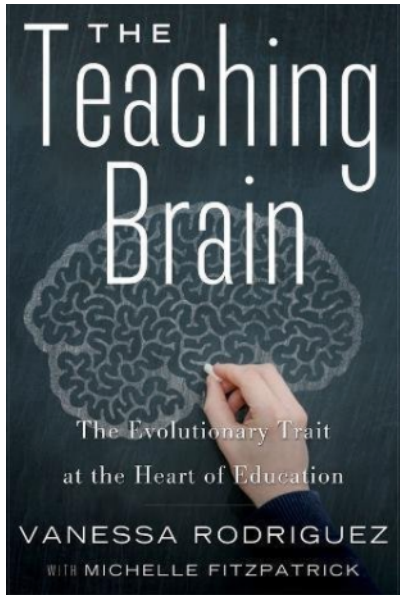
- *If you were to write 3-4 “teaching commitments,” what would they be?*
- *When do you feel pulled away from those commitments?*
- *What might it look like (or require) to feel like you could be fully in alignment with those values?*
- ***After reading this, what ideas/pushes/inspiration does it give you for how we might reimagine the teaching profession?***



WE GOT THIS.

[Read pages 12-18 \(PDF\)](#), where Minor describes a conversation that led him to realize how “listening to children is one of the most powerful things a teacher can do.” As you read, consider:

- *Which of Minor’s three components of listening – hearing, thinking, acting – do you find most challenging to practice, in life or in work?*
- *“My lessons were not, at all, linked to Quick’s reality.” (15) What would school look like if lessons were linked to young peoples’ realities? What would that require?*
- ***After reading this, what ideas/pushes/inspiration does it give you for how we might reimagine the teaching profession?***



THE TEACHING BRAIN

Read the two excerpts (p. 97-100, p. 185-187) in [The Teaching Brain \(PDF\)](#). Rodriguez describes the limitations of student-centered teaching and offers a new orientation for devising future solutions that center on effective teaching in the future. As you read, consider:

- What is your own experience with “putting students at the center”? What is your reaction to reading Rodriguez’s critique that student-centeredness misses a critical dynamic between teacher and student?
 - Rodriguez names five Awarenesses of the Teaching Brain (p. 124). They are Awareness of: (1) Interaction (2) The learner, (3) Teaching Practice, (4) Self as a teacher, and (5) Context. Which of these awarenesses do you consciously hold? Are there any you’d like to build or improve?
 - On p. 185, Rodriguez offers “Without full understanding of the teacher, we are ignoring the fact that teaching is an interaction”. What do you think about this claim? What does this quote make you want to shift (if anything) in your own practice?
- ***After reading this, what ideas/pushes/inspiration does it give you for how we might reimagine the teaching profession?***