

BOOK REVIEW

Regie Routman, *The Heart-Centered Teacher: Restoring Hope, Joy, and Possibility in Uncertain Times*

Reviewed by W. Dorsey Hammond

For the tens of thousands of educators who have been informed and inspired by the writings of Regie Routman, her latest book is a “must read.” This book is not about pedagogy per se, but rather a look inward into the life and character of the teacher. It is both inspiring and profound. In this era of federal mandates and state standards, it is the right book at the right time. Regie gives us a window into why two teachers in the same school, at the same grade level using the same curriculum and employing similar pedagogies can produce very different student attitudes and outcomes.

The veteran teacher will find this book comforting and reassuring. The new teacher will profit immeasurably from Regie’s insights and set you on a path to a highly successful career. There were many times when reading this book that I smiled and laughed and on one or two occasions frankly, the book brought me to tears. I enjoyed every chapter from *Loving Our Students* to *Becoming Our Truest Selves* and *Becoming a Significant Influencer*.

If you are currently teaching, read this book. If you are a school principal or supervisor, read the book and pass it on to your teaching staff. If you are a friend of a teacher, buy the book as a gift to your friend. If you are a parent of children in school, this book will help you understand what makes a special and impactful teacher for your child.

As the subtitle states, this book is about restoring hope, joy and possibilities in these uncertain times. Thanks Regie Routman!

About the Reviewer: *W. Dorsey Hammond, Ph.D., is a professor emeritus of Oakland University in Michigan and Salisbury University in Maryland. He has been a frequent presenter at state, national, and international conferences on issues of literacy and has authored numerous articles and other publications. He began his career as an elementary school teacher and over his thirty-five year career as a university professor of literacy has worked regularly with K-1 teachers in their classrooms. Email: wdhammond@salisbury.edu*

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