

FROM THE MOVIE "FREEDOM WRITERS"

Believe in your students.

"She told me she believed in me. I have never heard those words from anyone...especially a teacher." Diary 23

Break down "comfort zones" in your classroom.

"Everyone in here seems to know everyone else; just like that TV show *Cheers*, where everybody knows my name." Diary 25

Make your classroom a safe environment.

"I walk in the room and I feel as though all the problems in my life are not important anymore. I am home." - Diary 24

Make learning relate to your students' lives.

"This story ["The Last Spin"] is a trip. I've never read something in school that related to something that happened in my life." - Diary 14

Engage your students' by tapping into their different learning styles.

"Ms Gruwell has some pretty amazing teaching methods. Our class just read a book called *Durango Street*, and now we are making a movie of it...Not only did this movie give us a better understanding of *Durango Street*, we also learned a lot about one another." - Diary 13

Enlighten your students by bringing in guest speakers.

"Now after meeting Miep Gies I can honestly say that my heroes are not just made up characters - my hero is real." - Diary 42

Make learning come to life.

"Ms. Gruwell can never do things the simple way. She always has some big teaching scheme even when we are nowhere near a classroom." - Diary 116

Involve your students' families in class projects.

"Our day began with a breakfast by the "Dream Team Moms." These are the dedicated moms who have adopted our class as their kids." - Diary 49

Be inclusive and treat your class like a family.

"I bet if it wasn't for this second family, a lot of people wouldn't even be with their first." - Diary 44

Empower your students to succeed!

"Historians say history repeats itself, but in my case I have managed to break the cycle because I am going to graduate from high school and go to college, an opportunity my parents never had." - Diary 105