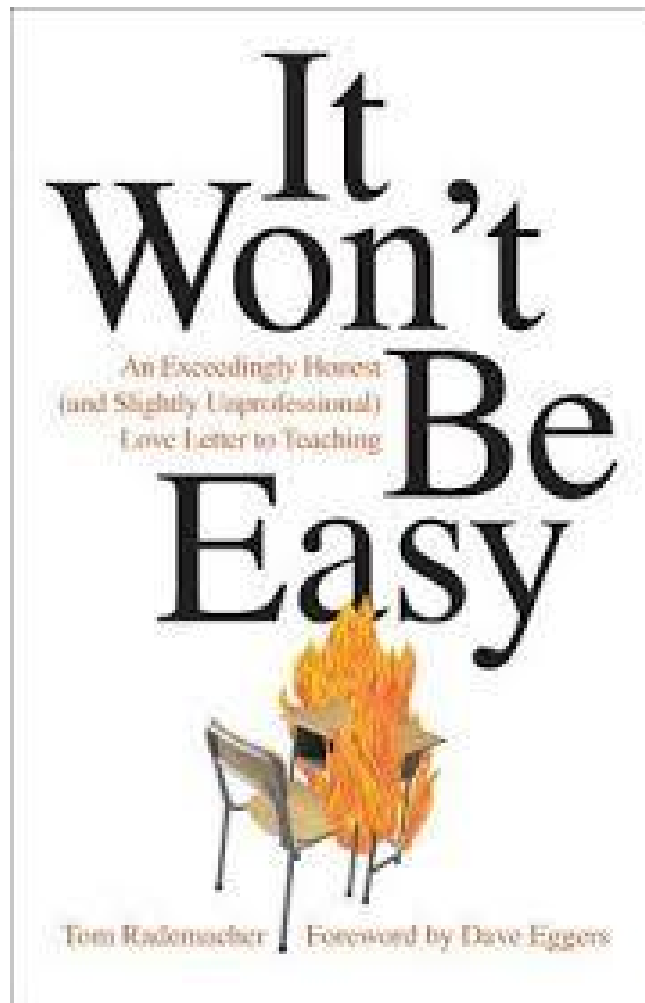


It Won't Be Easy - An Exceedingly Honest (and Slightly Unprofessional) Love Letter to Teaching

By Tom Reademacher



I actually came across this book as I was looking for another book for a presentation this summer. It immediately caught my attention with just the Foreword and I began to read it from the lens of a brand new teacher. After completing the book I knew I was going to buy a copy for each one of my sons who will be entering the teaching profession later this year. The book is exceedingly honest and is written from a teacher's perspective. In his perspective he looks at what he learned, what he wished he had learned and what he thinks are the most important behaviors, mindsets, and reasons for being an incredible teacher. He doesn't hold back and shares the good, the bad and the ugly of his learning journey. He cusses a bit along his journey but he also inspires, loves and knocks it out of the park on how to change students' lives.

By the time I was done reading the book I knew I needed to share it with all of my new teachers. It holds valuable insights and when teachers are struggling and questioning their profession which I believe happens in those first couple of years it helps them realize just how tough being a good teacher is but it is absolutely worth it. I shared it with all my first and second year teachers and we read the foreward together in our very first meeting. We found six powerful lessons for teachers just in the foreward, the small but difference making lessons teachers need to know but do not always get in a teaching textbook. By the end of the book he will share lessons with you that you will want to share with even your veteran teachers. I will share a quick bit from the Chapter - **The Worst Advice Ever** (Page 106)

“He went on from there, for quite some time, really, about all the reasons to ignore everything around you and just teach your class. Just close the door, do your thing, shut the rest out. It sounded a lot like really great advice.

It was the absolute worst advice I’ve ever received. Simba, screw everyone else, go find a comfy bed, and hang out. Simba, you can only worry about what you can change, and you can’t change much.

Friends, young friends, do not close your doors. Do not. It is not good for your school; it is not good for your room, for your kids, or for you. Open your doors, go forth. Go forth and make messes and build things and throw your voice into problems and places where it is not asked. Go, go, go.

Go, because teaching is a team sport, because what your experience within your room should matter deeply to those outside of it, and what happens outside of school is hugely important to how things go in your room. Teaching can be too lonely and it can be too easy to imagine you are the only one struggling or the only one getting it right, and neither of those things is ever true. Get out of your room. Talk to teachers about teaching, talk to them about students. Look from as wide a lens as you can manage at the issues that shape school, and throw your energy and experience into making them better.”

There is a lot to learn from this book, think about from this book and share from this book. I highly recommend it for anyone going into education or who is already in education.