Contents

Rethinking Our Classrooms:
Teaching for Equity and Justice

Volume 1, New Edition

Introduction: Creating Classrooms for Equity and Social Justice ........................................... x

Part One: Points of Departure
“Lions” .......................................................... 2
By Langston Hughes
Unlearning the Myths That Bind Us: Critiquing Cartoons and Society ............................... 3
By Linda Christensen
Rethinking ‘The Three Little Pigs’ ...................... 8
By Ellen Wolpert
10 Quick Ways to Analyze Children’s Books for Racism and Sexism ............................. 10
By the Council on Interracial Books for Children
Celebrating the Joy in Daily Events .................. 12
By Linda Christensen
“Ode to My Socks • Oda a los calcetines” ........ 13
By Pablo Neruda
Taking Multicultural, Anti-Racist Education Seriously ............................................. 15
An interview with Enid Lee
“My Hair Is Long” ......................................... 18
By Loyen Redhawk Gali

Part Two: Rethinking My Classroom
Race and Respect Among Young Children .......... 20
By Rita Tenorio
Holding Nyla: Lessons from an Inclusion Classroom ........................................... 25
By Katie Kissinger
Teaching for Social Justice: One Teacher’s Journey .... 28
By Bob Peterson
Songs That Promote Justice ................................ 33
By Bob Peterson
“Forgiving My Father” .................................... 35
By Justin Morris
Playing with Gender: Lessons from an Early Childhood Center ........................................ 36
By Ann Pelo
The Challenge of Classroom Discipline ................ 41
By Bob Peterson
Helping Students Deal with Anger .................... 43
By Kelley Dawson Salas
Building Community from Chaos...................... 47
By Linda Christensen
Discipline: No Quick Fix .................................. 53
By Linda Christensen
“Honeybees” .................................................. 55
By Paul Fleischman
Teaching About Global Warming in Truck Country .................................................. 57
By Jana Dean
Students Use Math to Confront Overcrowding .......................................................... 63
By Erin E. Turner and Beatriz T. Font Strawhun
Getting Off the Track: Stories from an Untracked Classroom ........................................ 68
By Bill Bigelow
“what the mirror said” ....................................... 76
By Lucille Clifton

Part Three: Teaching Ideas
Using Pictures to Combat Bias ........................... 78
By Ellen Wolpert
My Mom’s Job Is Important .............................. 80
By Matt Witt
Father Was a Musician ..................................... 83
By Dyan Watson
There's More to Heroes Than He-Man ..........................84
   By Marcie Osinski

The Military Recruitment Minefield ..........................85
   By Bill Bigelow

Coping with TV: Some Lesson Ideas ............................93
   By Bob Peterson

What Do We Say When We Hear 'Faggot'?.......................95
   By Leonore Gordon

Learning from Worms ..............................................97
   By Rachel Cloue

The Organic Goodie Simulation .................................100
   By Bill Bigelow and Norm Diamond

World Poverty and World Resources ...........................103
   By Susan Hersh and Bob Peterson

Math, SATs, and Racial Profiling ................................106
   By Eric Gutstein

The Day Sondra Took Over: Helping Students Become Self-Directed .................................................109
   By Cynthia M. Ellwood

Little Things Are Big ................................................113
   By Jesús Colón

Haiku and Hiroshima: Teaching About the Atomic Bomb .................................................................114
   By Wayne Au

Students as Textbook Detectives: An Exercise in Uncovering Bias .......................................................116
   By Bill Bigelow and Bob Peterson

What Can Teachers Do About Sexual Harassment? .......118
   By Ellen Bravo and Larry Miller

Flirting vs. Sexual Harassment: Teaching the Difference ........................................................................121
   By Nan Stein and Lisa Sjostrom

Celebrating the Student’s Voice ..................................124
   By Linda Christensen

“Rayford’s Song” ........................................................125
   By Lawson Inada

Promoting Social Imagination Through Interior Monologues ..............................................................126
   By Bill Bigelow and Linda Christensen

“Two Women” ..........................................................128
   By Anonymous

Role Plays: Show, Don’t Tell ........................................130
   By Bill Bigelow

Testing, Tracking, and Toeing the Line: A Role Play on the Origins of the Modern High School ............133
   By Bill Bigelow

‘Salt of the Earth’ Grounds Students in Hope ...............141
   By S. J. Childs

“The Funeral of Martin Luther King, Jr.” ......................144
   By Nikki Giovanni

Part Four: Rethinking Our Assumptions

   My Dirty Little Secret: Why I Don’t Grade Papers ..........................................................146
   By Linda Christensen

   Expectations and ‘At-Risk’ Children: One Teacher’s Perspective ................................................151
   By L. C. Clark

   Teachers and Cultural Styles .......................................152
   By Asa G. Hilliard III

   Teaching Standard English: Whose Standard? .........154
   By Linda Christensen

   Seeing Color ..........................................................158
   By Lisa Delpit

   When Small Is Beautiful ..........................................161
   An interview with Héctor Calderón

   I Won’t Learn from You! Confronting Student Resistance ..........................................................165
   By Herbert Kohl
Part Five: Beyond the Classroom

Why We Need to Go Beyond the Classroom .......... 188
   By Stan Karp

“Rebellion Against the North Side” ............. 194
   By Naomi Shihab Nye

Teachers Teaching Teachers ...................... 195
   By Linda Christensen

Equity Claims for NCLB Don’t Pass the Test ....... 200
   By Stan Karp

Why Standardized Tests Are Bad .................. 203
   By Terry Meier

“Lineage” ........................................... 205
   By Margaret Walker

Students Mobilize for Immigrant Rights .......... 206
   By Ryan Knudson and Al Levi

Part Six: Resources

Poetry Teaching Guide ............................ 212
   By Linda Christensen

Videos ............................................. 215
   By Bill Bigelow and Linda Christensen

Video Teaching Strategies ...................... 216
   By Bill Bigelow and Linda Christensen

Books for Young People ....................... 219

Curricula and Teaching Resources ............ 224

Periodicals ...................................... 228

Organizations .................................... 229

Poetry Credits ................................... 231

Index ................................................ 232