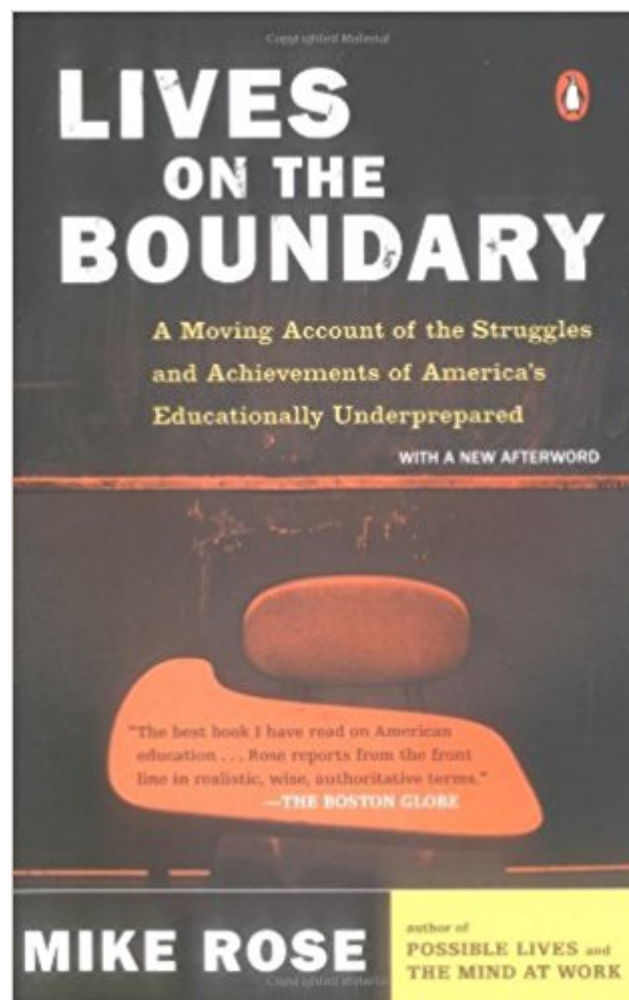




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# Lives On The Boundary: A Moving Account Of The Struggles And Achievements Of America's Educationally Un Derprepared



## Synopsis

The award-winning account of how America's educational system fails its students and what can be done about it. Remedial, illiterate, intellectually deficient—these are the stigmas that define America's educationally underprepared. Having grown up poor and been labeled this way, nationally acclaimed educator and author Mike Rose takes us into classrooms and communities to reveal what really lies behind the labels and test scores. With rich detail, Rose demonstrates innovative methods to initiate "problem" students into the world of language, literature, and written expression. This book challenges educators, policymakers, and parents to re-examine their assumptions about the capacities of a wide range of students. Already a classic, *Lives on the Boundary* offers a truly democratic vision, one that should be heeded by anyone concerned with America's future. "A mirror to the many lacking perfect grammar and spelling who may see their dreams translated into reality after all." -Los Angeles Times Book Review "Vividly written . . . tears apart all of society's prejudices about the academic abilities of the underprivileged." -New York Times

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reissue edition (July 26, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143035460

ISBN-13: 978-0143035466

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,821 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Special Needs #20 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Educators #23 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > History

## Customer Reviews

Rose, associate director of the UCLA writing program, traces his journey from a Los Angeles ghetto, where illiteracy was the norm, through a series of educational serendipities that led to his career as a teacher. In moving autobiographical vignettes, he pays homage to the interested teachers of his parochial high school, whose best efforts nevertheless left him unready for the rigors of higher

education. However, at Loyola, a small Catholic college, Rose experienced epiphany, became successful with the untiring nurturance of four humanities professors who, he shows, exemplify the best in liberal education. Although the anecdotes of Rose's early working-class background are vivid, they function as the underpinning of a thoughtful and enlightening analysis of the tremendous difficulties ghetto children face in finding their places in the American educational system. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Because a teacher believed in him, Rose (writing program, UCLA) was able to escape from poverty and go to college. There he floundered, unfamiliar with the conventions and demands of academic discourse, until another teacher realized his potential and took a personal interest in him. In *Lives*, Rose talks about the tremendous barriers to learning which handicap the underprivileged in their striving to educate themselves. Rose uses examples from his own and his students' lives to show how change takes place through a dialogue of possibility between teacher and pupil. "Knowledge gained its meaning, at least initially, through a touch on the shoulder." Rose impresses upon us the importance of reaching these students and convinces us that they can be saved. An admirable, life-affirming book, deserving a wide readership.- David Keymer, Coll. of Technology, Utica Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I bought this book for a college class on literacy studies. Mike Rose documents his literacy journey in the US, being an immigrant and all. It tells a powerful story of the educational challenges of students of colors, immigrant students, and students from all sorts of backgrounds.

This book didn't need to be written. It didn't resonate with me in the slightest. The only reason I trudged through this book was because it was a required reading for a class I'm taking. I don't understand how so many people can praise this book as a piece of literary genius. Mike overexplains just about everything. I often found myself saying, "Okay, I get it; move on." The next thing is a personal preference, but the texture of the cover material makes my skin crawl, but again, that's a personal thing and has nothing to do with the content of the book. If I can't sell this book off, it might just find itself down range or in a recycling bin--or both.

This was the assigned text for English 300. It's a good book where Mike Rose chronicles his own

educational experiences inside and outside academia. He has some great insights about the human experience and reveals some embarrassing anecdotes about himself along the way. It is hard to sum up this book concisely, but I would recommend this book for anyone in and around education. However, in my opinion the last sections of the book were not as enjoyable. What I found especially repetitive in the last sections were his thoughts on, and experiences with pedagogy, perhaps it is because I cannot relate to that aspect at least not yet (hopefully) but likely Rose wanted to make sure his readers did not miss his thoughts on it. This book revealed to me many small insights, the best section is found on page 95.

I read this book because I was interested in literacy education. This is hands down, one of the best and most interesting books I have ever read on education in general. I strongly recommend this book for anyone who is interested in teaching literacy or remedial education or will be working with such students. Rose's achievements with students was exceptional and successful. Rose debunks a lot of stereotypes and educational fallacies on literacy and remedial students, as he was placed in such courses himself. This is truly an amazing book of one man's journey to become an educator as well as challenging and redefining educational problems. I will be reading this book again and more of Rose's work to learn more to be an outstanding teacher.

Though the writing is solid and to the point, the story line of Mike Rose tends to come off as preachy. With a moving account of his educational background, the reader is often drawn to feel sympathy towards his cause. As an educator, it is useful book to read for the perspective, but that is about it. The account is extremely one-sided and doesn't take into account many challenges facing America's educationally underprepared. If you're looking for an easy read with some substance, this a good book. If you're looking for something trying to tackle social issues, keep looking.

Mike Rose grew up under-educated and placed in a tracking system in his school that almost doomed him to a life of unfulfillment. Only because he was able to be de-tracked and helped by a caring teacher, did he escape the vocational dead-end he was headed for. This is a powerful book about moving beyond what educational bureaucracy has in store for many of our poor children, who, because of their poverty or life circumstances are pre-judged not to be worth educating. I suggest the reader also read Frank McCourt's biography of his life as a teacher, "Teacher man." McCourt taught in NYC vocational schools for 30 years and the two books compliment each other in perspective.

Great book at great price

It is a smooth read. He effectively shows that the 'at-risk' students have been misunderstood.

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