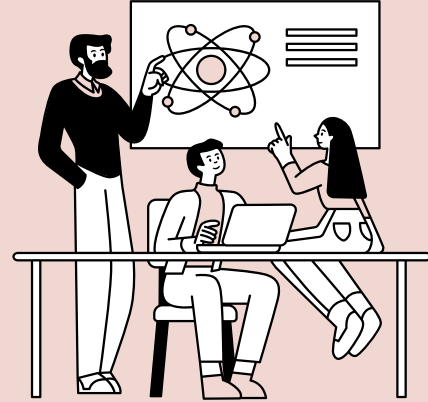


# REPORT OF LYSTRA

*Guiding Lights : A Teachers' day special*



Print version

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# ***BEYOND THE MIRACLE WORKER***

-Kim E. Nielsen



Anne Sullivan was a remarkable teacher known for her pivotal role in the education of Helen Keller. In the book '*Beyond the Miracle Worker*' Kim explains about Anne Sullivan's role in the life of Helen.

**Determination and Dedication:** Anne Sullivan was fiercely determined to help Helen Keller, a deaf and blind child, overcome her disabilities. She demonstrated unwavering dedication to her student's education.

**Communication:** Sullivan used a tactile method to communicate with Helen. She spelled out words and concepts by finger-spelling them into Helen's hand. This method allowed Helen to understand and learn language, making it a breakthrough in her education.

**Patience:** Teaching Helen Keller required immense patience. Anne Sullivan repeated words and signs tirelessly, allowing Helen to gradually make connections and understand language and concepts.

**Customized Curriculum:** Anne Sullivan tailored her teaching to meet Helen's unique needs. She focused on language acquisition and used real-life experiences to teach vocabulary and concepts.

**Building Trust:** Sullivan established a deep bond of trust with Helen. This trust was essential in facilitating communication and learning.

**Persistence:** Teaching Helen Keller was a long and challenging journey. Anne Sullivan's persistence in the face of difficulties and setbacks played a significant role in Helen's remarkable progress.

**Incorporating Real-Life Experiences:** Sullivan believed in the importance of experiential learning. She took Helen out into the world to help her make real-world connections to the language and concepts she was learning.

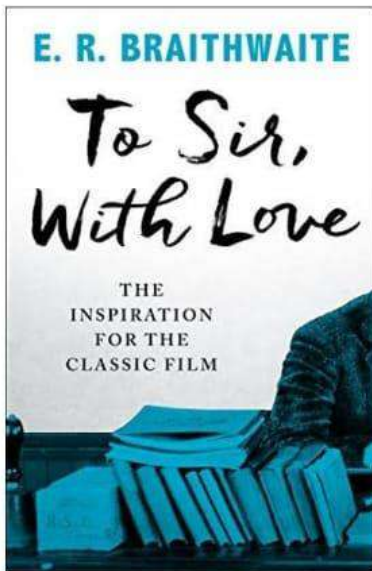
**Positive Reinforcement:** Anne Sullivan used positive reinforcement to encourage Helen's learning and behavior. She praised Helen's efforts and successes, motivating her to continue learning.

**Teamwork:** Sullivan worked closely with Helen's family to create a supportive and consistent learning environment. This collaborative approach was instrumental in Helen's education.

**Adaptability:** Anne Sullivan adapted her teaching methods as Helen progressed. She continued to challenge Helen with more complex concepts and skills as her abilities grew.

Anne Sullivan's teaching methods and dedication not only transformed Helen Keller's life but also served as an inspiration to educators around the world. Her work demonstrated the power of patience, determination, and customized teaching methods in helping individuals with disabilities reach their full potential.

*Aneetta Biju*



## **PEDAGOGUES OF DESTINY: ILLUMINATING "TO SIR WITH LOVE"**

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In the literary masterpiece "To Sir with Love" by E.R. Braithwaite Mark Thackeray emerges as a poetic influencer weaving verses of transformation into the tapestry of his students' lives. E.R. Braithwaite takes us on a poignant journey through the labyrinth of education and human connection. Amidst the bustling city of London the narrative unfolds to reveal the transformative power of teachers casting them as guiding lights in the lives of their students.

The Virtuoso of Enlightenment: Thackeray enters their world as a maestro of education conducting a symphony of awakening in their eager hearts. Each whispered word he imparts unfurls like a delicate petal revealing the blossoming scholars within.

Cultural Exposure: Thackeray exposes his students to art music and literature broadening their horizons and helping them appreciate the finer aspects of life beyond their challenging circumstances.

Social Development: He teaches them essential life skills and etiquette preparing them for a world beyond the school walls. He instills in them values like respect discipline and self-worth.

Racial Tolerance: Thackeray who is of Afro-Caribbean descent faces racial prejudice but he teaches his students the importance of tolerance and respect for all races fostering a sense of unity and equality among them.



Personal Transformation: Through his guidance and mentorship, many of the students undergo personal transformations. They become more self-confident, responsible, and ambitious, breaking away from the limited expectations society had for them.

Teacher-Student Relationships: Thackeray builds strong bonds with his students, earning their respect and trust. His dedication to their well-being and education sets an example of a caring teacher-student relationship.

In "To Sir, with Love," Mark Thackeray is not just an educator; he is a poet, a composer, a painter, and a sculptor. His influence is a sonnet, an opus, a masterpiece that transcends the ordinary, leaving an indelible imprint on the poetic hearts and souls of his students, forever singing the melodies of their transformed destinies.

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Pooja O

# Dead Poets Society, Nancy.H. Kleinbaum

## 1. Inspiration through Poetry:

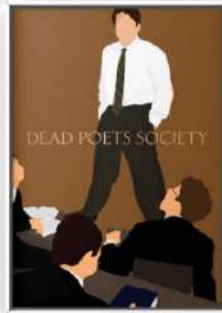
Keating introduces the concept of "carpe diem" (seize the day) and encourages his students to embrace life's opportunities. He uses poetry to inspire them to think critically, challenge the status quo, and pursue their passions.

## 2. Individuality and Self-Expression:

Keating emphasizes the importance of individuality and self-expression. He encourages students to find their own voices and follow their dreams, even if those dreams differ from societal or familial expectations.

## 3. Overcoming Fear:

Keating helps students overcome their fears and insecurities. For example, he encourages Neil Perry to pursue his love for acting despite his father's objections. Neil's decision to perform in a play demonstrates Keating's influence on his path.



## 4. Questioning Authority:

Keating teaches his students to question authority and think for themselves. This is exemplified when the students stand on their desks to gain a new perspective, symbolizing their rebellion against conformity.

## 5. Tragedy and Redemption:

The book explores the tragic consequences of conformity and the importance of individuality. Neil's tragic fate and the subsequent actions of the students underscore the lasting impact of Keating's teachings.

## 6. Legacy:

In the final scene, Todd Anderson, who initially struggled with self-confidence, finds the courage to speak out and salute Mr. Keating by standing on his desk. This powerful gesture shows that Keating's influence continues to shape the students' lives.

"Dead Poets Society" is a powerful film that explores the profound influence of teachers on their students and how they help pave their paths. Here, we'll summarize key aspects of this influence in two pages.

In conclusion, "Dead Poets Society" demonstrates how a passionate and unconventional teacher like John Keating can profoundly influence students by inspiring them to seize opportunities, embrace individuality, overcome fear, question authority, and ultimately shape their own paths. The film serves as a tribute to the transformative power of education and the teachers who inspire their students to live authentic lives.

**ANJANA JAYARAJ**

# Bel Kaufman's *Up The Down Staircase*

**UP** *Bel Kaufman (b. 1911) is a best selling writer, dedicated teacher, and lecturer best known for her novel Up the Down Staircase(1965),a classic portrayal of life in the New York public school system.*

**THE** *Up the Down Staircase is a novel published in1964, which spent 64 weeks on The New York Times Best Seller list. In 1967 it was released as a film starring Sandy Dennis, Patrick Bedford, Ruth White, Jean Stapleton and Eileen Heckart.*

**DOWN** *Up the Down Staircase is the funny and touching story of a committed, idealistic teacher whose dash with school bureaucracy is a timeless lesson for students, teachers, parents—anyone concerned about public education.*

**STAIRCASE** *The novel primarily follows the protagonist, Sylvia Barrett, as she navigates her teaching career. The novel highlights Sylvia's initial idealism and enthusiasm as she begins her teaching career. However, as she faces the bureaucratic and administrative challenges of the education system, her ideals clash with the harsh realities of the classroom.*



# ***Sylvia Barrett*** *In the novel "Up the Down*

*Staircase" by Bel Kaufman, the teacher's role is central to the story. The book follows the experiences of Sylvia Barrett, a young and idealistic English teacher, as she begins her job at an inner-city New York City public high school. Sylvia's role as a teacher involves:*

*Sylvia is responsible for teaching her students English literature and grammar. She faces various challenges in engaging her students and helping them learn despite the limitations of the school environment.*

*Sylvia interacts with a diverse group of students, each with their own backgrounds, behaviors, and attitudes toward education. Her role includes trying to understand and connect with her students, even those who are difficult to reach.*

*Sylvia encounters bureaucratic obstacles within the school system, such as administrative paperwork, school policies, and red tape. Her role involves navigating these challenges to effectively teach her students.*

*Sylvia seeks guidance and support from more experienced colleagues who play a mentorship role in her career development. This highlights the importance of collaboration and mentorship in the teaching profession.*

*Overall, Sylvia's role as a teacher in "Up the Down Staircase" illustrates the dedication, challenges, and passion that educators often experience in their quest to make a positive impact on their students' lives. The novel provides a candid portrayal of the complexities of teaching in an urban public school setting.*



## **The Real Mentor**

### **Sahara Special : Esme Raji Codell**

Set in contemporary Chicago, *Sahara Special* (2003), American author Esme Raji Codell's debut children's novel, follows Sahara Jones, who is entering fifth grade again. Since her father left two years ago, Sarah has wanted to be a writer but has not written anything at school, including her homework.

As Sahara begins to open up and embrace her new teacher, she finds the confidence to express her feelings through writing again. Miss Poitier, who allows her students to call her Miss Pointy, is the most unique teacher Sahara has ever had. Miss Pointy and her students, come to view their new teacher as a friend they can trust rather than an authority they should fear. Free-spirited, Miss Pointy bends the rules, does not examine or judge student files, and encourages her students to challenge themselves. She pokes, prods, challenges, and inspires her students. These methods impress Sahara.

When Miss Pointy has the students start a daily writing journal in class, Sahara is even happier. She notices Sahara's notebook and discovers that she is a talented writer. Miss Pointy encourages Sahara to pursue her dream of becoming a writer. Sahara soon reengages with her schoolwork, actively participating in classroom storytelling, poetry, and vocabulary lessons, and changing her attitude about teachers in general.

While Sarah continues to write her autobiography, she makes friends with her classmates, something she was unable to do as "Special Sahara" a year earlier.

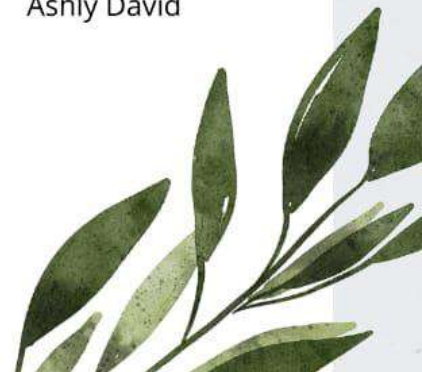




At the end of the story, Sahara finds the courage to share part of her autobiography in front of the class. With a newfound sense of self-worth and pride in her writing ability, Sahara returns home and spends time reading her work file in her bedroom. The heart of the narrative is the transformative journey of Sahara. Sahara's teacher becomes more than just an educator; she becomes a mentor, a friend, and a source of guidance during a pivotal time in Sahara's life.

In "Sahara Special," Esme Raji Codell beautifully illustrates the evolving teacher-student relationship, showcasing how it can transcend the boundaries of the classroom and make a lasting impact on a young person's life. This novel reminds us of the significance of fostering positive connections between educators and students, as they can shape not only academic success but also personal growth and self-discovery. The story of Sahara and Mrs. Shelley serves as a powerful testament to the enduring bonds that can form between teachers and their students, leaving a lasting impression that extends far beyond the classroom walls.

Ashly David



## RACE OF MY LIFE

### – Sonia Sanwalka

In the early stages of Milkha Singh's athletic career, influencing his coach required a combination of determination, trust-building, and dedication. The coach, let's call him Mr. Sharma, played a pivotal role in shaping Milkha's journey to greatness. Here's how someone might have influenced Mr. Sharma:

Demonstrating Exceptional Talent:	First and foremost, to influence a coach like Mr. Sharma in Milkha's life, one would need to exhibit exceptional athletic talent. Milkha's natural speed and agility would have caught Mr. Sharma's attention, making him realize the potential for greatness.
Earning Respect through Hard Work:	Milkha Singh's relentless work ethic would have earned him Mr. Sharma's respect. He would have shown up at every practice session, consistently pushing his limits and setting an example for others. This dedication would have convinced Mr. Sharma of Milkha's commitment.
Openness to Coaching:	Milkha would have demonstrated a willingness to be coached. He would have listened attentively to Mr. Sharma's advice and implemented it diligently. This coachable attitude would have fostered a strong coach-athlete relationship.
Building Trust:	Trust is the foundation of any successful coach-athlete partnership. Over time, Milkha would have proven himself trustworthy by adhering to Mr. Sharma's training regimen



	and strategies, which ultimately led to improved performance.
Setting High Goals:	Milkha's ambitious goals and dreams, like representing India on the international stage, would have motivated Mr. Sharma. His determination to achieve these goals would have inspired the coach to invest more time and effort in his development.
Overcoming Challenges Together:	Milkha's perseverance in the face of adversity, including his experiences during the partition of India, would have showcased his resilience. Mr. Sharma, witnessing Milkha's ability to overcome challenges, would have become even more dedicated to his protege's success.
Recognizing Achievements:	Celebrating Milkha's achievements, such as his remarkable performances in international competitions, would have further solidified Mr. Sharma's belief in his coaching methods. These successes would have inspired both coach and athlete to reach new heights.
	Influencing a coach in Milkha Singh's life would have required a combination of natural talent, unwavering dedication, and the ability to earn the coach's trust through consistent hard work. This relationship would have been marked by shared goals, mutual respect, and a commitment to achieving greatness together.

Sunitha Mary Joy





## THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

"The Secret Life of Bees" is a novel written by Sue Monk Kidd which is set in the 1960s featuring a young girl named Lily Owens. Lily grows up in a tumultuous household with her abusive father, T. Ray, and longs for information about her deceased mother. After an incident, Lily escapes with her housekeeper and surrogate mother figure, Rosaleen, to a town called Tiburon, South Carolina. In Tiburon, they find refuge with a group of beekeeping sisters, the Boatwrights, who run a honey business. The three sisters—August, June, and May—take Lily and Rosaleen in and offer them love, support, and a sense of belonging.

As Lily spends time with the Boatwrights, she learns about beekeeping, the power of female relationships, and her mother's connection to the sisters. Throughout the novel, Lily grapples with her past, the challenges of growing up, and the complexities of race and prejudice in the South during the civil rights era. The story beautifully explores themes of love, forgiveness, and the search for one's true identity. The novel's title, "The Secret Life of Bees," is a metaphor for the hidden world of emotions, relationships, and experiences that shape the characters' lives, much like the intricate workings of a beehive."



## The Secret Life of Bees" reflects the influence of teaching in several ways:

□□1. Maternal Guidance: The novel emphasizes the transformative power of maternal figures like August Boatwright, who provides love, guidance, and wisdom to Lily. August becomes a teacher in a non-traditional sense, offering life lessons, emotional support, and a sense of belonging.

□□2. Practical Knowledge: August, along with her sisters, imparts practical knowledge about beekeeping. This act of teaching not only empowers Lily with a valuable skill but also symbolizes the importance of passing down traditions and wisdom from one generation to the next.

□□3. Spiritual and Emotional Education: The Boatwright sisters introduce Lily to a world of spirituality and emotional healing. Through their teachings, Lily learns about the power of forgiveness, the complexity of human emotions, and the strength that comes from connecting with others.

□□4. Lessons about Race and Prejudice: The novel also serves as a lesson about racial injustice and prejudice during the civil rights era. Through the experiences of the characters, readers gain insight into the challenges faced by African Americans in the South during that time.

□□5. Self-Discovery and Identity: Lily's journey of self-discovery is deeply influenced by the teachings and experiences she encounters with the Boatwright sisters. Their guidance helps her navigate her past, understand her mother's history, and ultimately find her own identity.

□□6. Empowerment through Knowledge: Throughout the novel, the act of teaching is shown as a means of empowerment. Lily's education, both formal and informal, equips her to make informed decisions and take control of her own life.

Overall, "The Secret Life of Bees" underscores the profound impact that teaching and mentorship can have on a person's growth and development. It highlights how learning goes beyond the classroom and encompasses emotional, spiritual, and practical knowledge that shapes individuals into who they are meant to be.

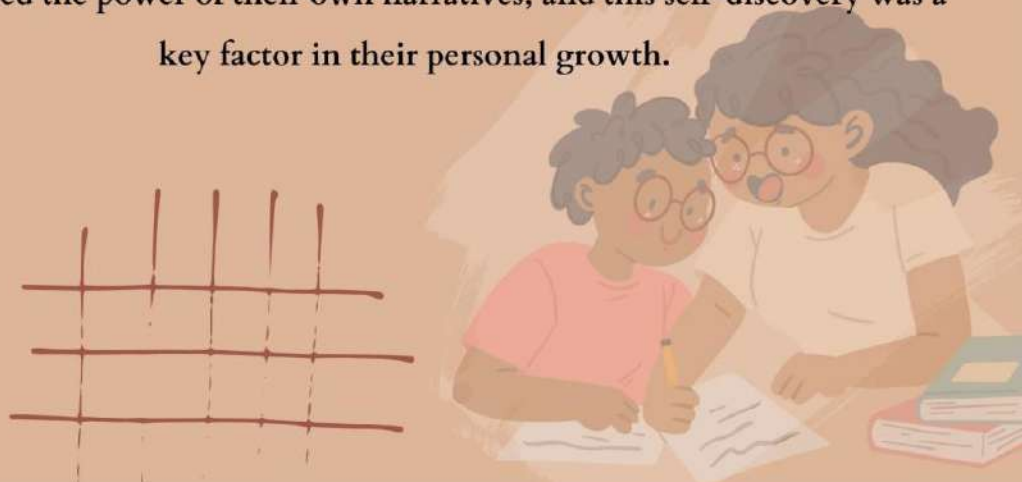


# Erin Gruwell's The Freedom Writers Diary.

Erin Gruwell's remarkable journey as a teacher is vividly depicted in "The Freedom Writers Diary." Her impact on her students was transformative, both academically and personally. Gruwell's approach to teaching went beyond textbooks and traditional methods; she instilled a sense of hope, self-worth, and empowerment in her students.

Your paragraph One of the most significant ways in which Gruwell influenced her students was through the creation of the "Freedom Writers."

She encouraged her students to share their personal stories, struggles, and experiences, allowing them to find their voices. This writing project not only improved their literacy skills but also provided a platform for them to express their emotions and experiences. Through the act of writing, the students discovered the power of their own narratives, and this self-discovery was a key factor in their personal growth.



Gruwell's dedication and unwavering belief in her students' potential were also crucial. She treated them with respect and empathy, which was a stark contrast to their previous experiences in a divided and racially tense environment. By fostering a safe and inclusive classroom, Gruwell created an atmosphere where students from diverse backgrounds could connect, learn from one another, and break down prejudices. This, in turn, had a profound impact on their attitudes and perceptions about themselves and others.

Furthermore, Gruwell's commitment extended beyond the classroom. She went to great lengths to provide resources and support for her students, even taking on part-time jobs to buy books and supplies. Her determination to give her students the best opportunities reflected her belief in their potential.

The impact of Gruwell's teaching methods and personal investment in her students was nothing short of transformative. Many of her students went on to graduate from high school and pursue higher education, breaking the cycle of poverty and violence that had surrounded them. They learned that their stories had value, and this newfound confidence led them to become advocates for change in their communities.

In conclusion, Erin Gruwell's influence on her students was profound. Through her innovative teaching methods, unwavering belief in their potential, and commitment to their well-being, she empowered them to overcome adversity and find their voices. The Freedom Writers not only improved their academic skills but also became agents of change, proving that education, empathy, and personal connection can make a lasting impact on students' lives.

**VISHNU KRISHNAN**