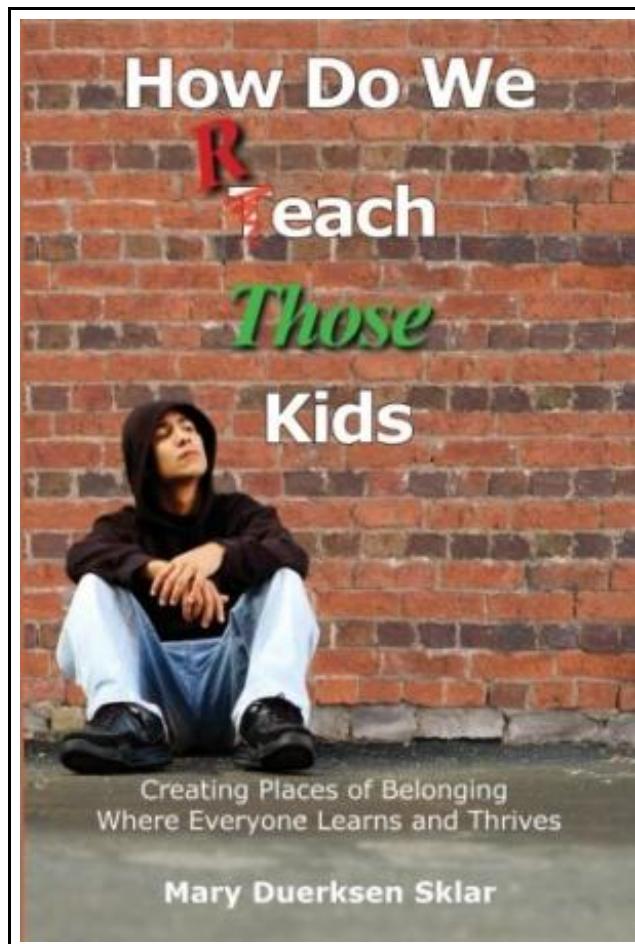


How Do We Reach Those Kids: Creating Places of Belonging Where Everyone Learns and Thrives



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(Letha Okuneva)

HOW DO WE REACH THOSE KIDS: CREATING PLACES OF BELONGING WHERE EVERYONE LEARNS AND THRIVES

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AR Publications, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Imagine, if you can, a roomful of teenage boys, all familiar with the inside of a courtroom; many are gang members, many are from the roughest home environments you might conjure up from having seen some pretty horrible movies. Many of those kids have experienced years of academic failure. Their guards are up so that no teacher, no test will be allowed to expose their shortcomings. They are accustomed to failing and to public embarrassment-both elements of their dislike of school. And then comes Friday: Poem Day-a tradition that has become a centerpiece for kids who are trying to find ways to express their feelings about the harshness and confusion of their lives. These teenagers, given time with Mary Sklar and her special brand of imparting to them a belief in themselves and encouraging them to dare anything to succeed, found themselves in their rooms late into the evening on Thursday memorizing poems by such authors as Maya Angelou and John Donne. They then recite these poems to a classful of other teenage boys-not a wisecrack or snort is heard-and the prize they receive is a miniature Snickers bar. After a student successfully recites a poem, he comes to the front of the classroom and drops rolls of pennies into a donation bucket-each year a different charity is selected related to education. He earns the pennies by choosing one of the longer poems on the list of options. Even though the pennies come from a fund established by the teacher, the boy feels so proud to be able, by his own effort, to help kids who are less fortunate than he with a charitable contribution. His name...



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