

Ideal for teacher
book groups!

THOMAS NEWKIRK

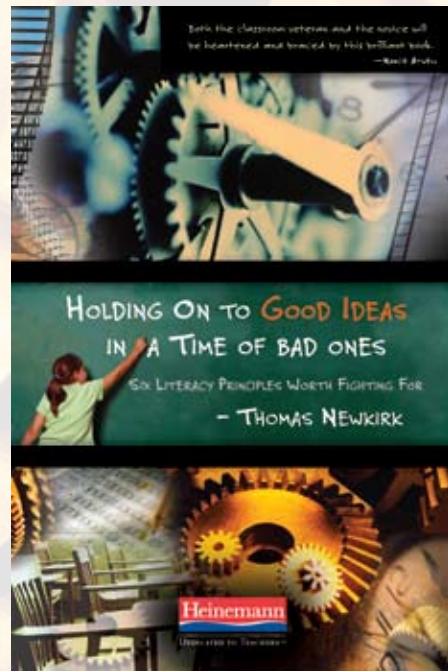
HOLDING ON TO GOOD IDEAS IN A TIME OF BAD ONES

Six Literacy Principles Worth Fighting For

In *Holding On to Good Ideas in a Time of Bad Ones*, Tom Newkirk eloquently defends teaching against the “cult of efficiency” that turns classrooms into assembly lines of knowledge. Newkirk goes beyond diagnosing the problem to present six ideas worth fighting for. These transformative practices gently but firmly return instructional decisions to where they belong: with you, our teachers. Newkirk shows how to:

- increase your instructional emphasis on writing because producing text is more important than ever
- help students access deep knowledge and expand their thinking through time to write freely
- connect school learning and the real world by teaching with popular culture
- propel the development of reading skills by helping students discover the pleasure of reading
- provide the time and space for meaningful, long-lasting teaching and learning by uncluttering the curriculum
- spark professional growth and avoid stagnation by discussing failure and uncertainty with colleagues.

Holding On to Good Ideas in a Time of Bad Ones is affirming, not argumentative. It celebrates the humanity and unpredictability of teaching with Newkirk’s blend of humor, passion, and warmth. Let it inspire a search for the things in your teaching that are most worth holding on to.



978-0-325-02123-2
2009 / 208pp / \$24.38

“*Holding On to Good Ideas in a Time of Bad Ones* is my new favorite book about how to live as a teacher. Finishing it, I experienced what I can only describe as a state of grace—moved, renewed, and grateful that a mind like Tom Newkirk’s has been intrigued by classroom matters for almost forty years now.”

—NANCIE ATWELL
Author of *In the Middle*
Second Edition

“Lately, we teachers have been suffering through some truly bad times. But as Tom Newkirk observes in this brilliant and stirring book, . . . there is always a struggle to put children first, to honor knowledge over compliance, and to place humanity above the aims of the state. . . . **Classic Newkirk: direct, incisive, and brimming with wisdom.**”

—HARVEY “SMOKEY” DANIELS
Coauthor of *Comprehension & Collaboration*



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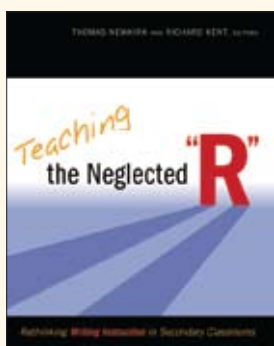


THOMAS NEWKIRK'S most recent book with Heinemann is *Teaching the Neglected "R"* (2007, coedited with Richard Kent). His *Misreading Masculinity* (2004) was cited by *Instructor Magazine* as one of the most significant books for teachers in the past decade. A former teacher of at-risk high school students in Boston, Tom is Professor of English at the University of New Hampshire, the former director of its freshman English program, and the director and founder of its New Hampshire Literacy Institutes. He has studied literacy learning at a variety of educational levels—from preschool to college. His other Heinemann and Boynton/Cook titles include the NCTE David H. Russell Award winning *Performance of Self in Student Writing* (Boynton/Cook, 1997), *Taking Stock: The Writing Process Movement in the 90s* (Boynton/Cook, 1994, coedited with Lad Tobin), and *Nuts & Bolts: A Practical Guide to Teaching College Composition* (Boynton/Cook, 1993).



“Rich with pedagogy and human enough to make you burst out laughing, Thomas Newkirk’s thoughts made me feel both heartened and head-slappingly awakened. **This book is one of the best teacher books ever.** I’ll be giving copies of it to lots of teacher friends as we find our way back to trusting what we know about kids, about learning, and about teaching writing.” —**GRETCHEN BERNABEI**
Author of Reviving the Essay

You may also be interested in...



Teaching the Neglected “R”

Rethinking Writing Instruction in Secondary Classrooms

EDITED BY **THOMAS NEWKIRK AND RICHARD KENT**

978-0-325-00362-7 / 2001 / 176pp / \$35.00

Every writing teacher wants to cut through the curricular clutter and get down to the matter of teaching writing well. At the same time, the rules of what writing is, what it does, and how it’s done are changing with each new wrinkle in digital technology. In *Teaching The Neglected “R”* some of the field’s most important teachers and thinkers take on the new realities of writing instruction, offering advice and insight into what good teaching looks like today.



Misreading Masculinity


Boys, Literacy, and Popular Culture

THOMAS NEWKIRK

978-0-325-00445-7 / 2002 / 224pp / \$30.00

Using a mixture of memoir, research project, cultural analysis, and critique of published findings, Newkirk encourages schools to ask questions about what counts as literacy in boys and what doesn’t, to allow in their literacy programs boys’ diverse tastes, values, and learning styles. In other words, if we want boys to join “the literacy club,” then we have to invite them in with genres of their own choosing.



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