



**Passionate Learners: How to Engage and Empower Your Students**

by **Pernille Ripp**  
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*A roadmap for all educators, from those fresh out of a faculty of education to the seasoned professional, looking to embrace a more student-centred practice.*

Pernille Ripp started off teaching like many of us; she attended a faculty of education, listened to the methods prescribed, read books that reinforced how to teach and strode into her classroom armed with detailed structures for every child to follow, wielding failure as a consequence for not listening to her lectures, not completing her endless worksheets, and not turning in the hours of homework she assigned a week. When she realized her methods “diminished” students instead of building them up, she knew she had to change her ways so her “future students would leave ... still loving school, with passionate curiosity, not afraid to try something new” (p. 116).

*Passionate Learners* documents Pernille’s journey. Each chapter tells the story of her original thoughts and actions compared to what she thinks and does now. The end of each chapter contains a list of practical tips and permissions needed to nudge teachers along their continuum towards a more student-centred pedagogical practice.

If you have any niggling concerns regarding setting classroom rules, reimagining yourself as a facilitator in your classroom, creating community, allowing

students to find their own way to achieve standards, releasing homework routines, or giving-up grades, this book is an excellent resource, filled with ideas, surveys, links to e-resources and more.

She writes in the same way you imagine she teaches. She knows we can only begin to grow from where we are and lets us know we can use this book to suit our needs, starting with even the smallest change. She encourages and inspires by reinforcing the key lesson she has learned:

Even the smallest changes can make monumental differences. Trusting yourself and your students, and sharing the power of the classroom with them, can lead to great teaching and learning even within the boundaries of our confining standard, testing obsessions, and mandatory curriculums. (p. xviii)

Pick a section that resonates with you and get started. If you like Pernille’s approach, you can follow her on Twitter at @pernilleripp or visit her site [pernillesripp.com](http://pernillesripp.com). You won’t be disappointed.

*continued on page 20*