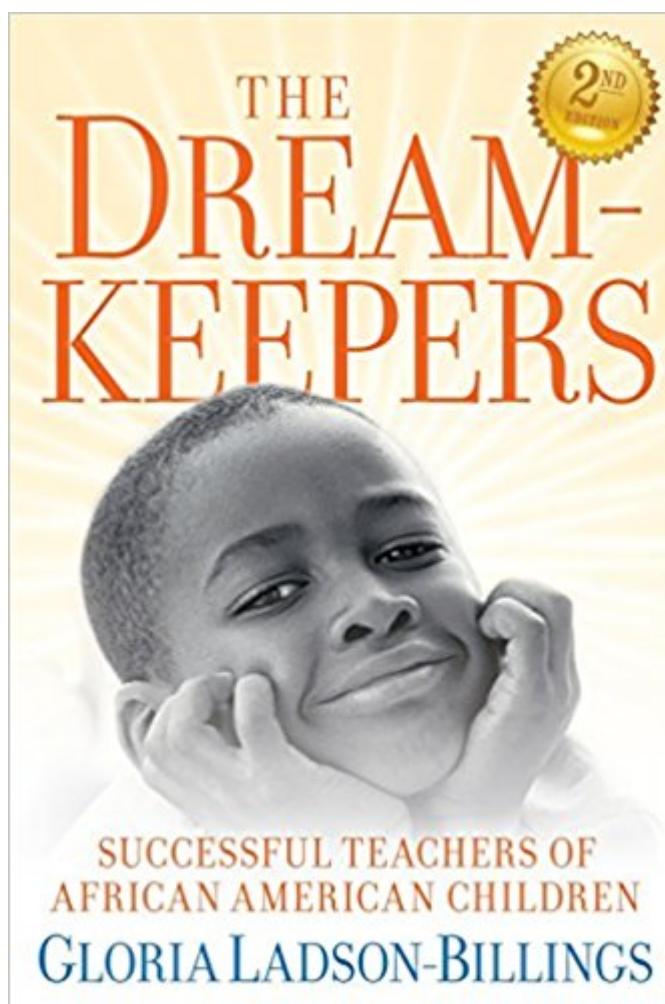


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# The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers Of African American Children



## **Synopsis**

In the second edition of her critically acclaimed book *The Dreamkeepers*, Gloria Ladson-Billings revisits the eight teachers who were profiled in the first edition and introduces us to new teachers who are current exemplars of good teaching. She shows that culturally relevant teaching is not a matter of race, gender, or teaching style. What matters most is a teacher's efforts to work with the unique strengths a child brings to the classroom. A brilliant mixture of scholarship and storytelling, *The Dreamkeepers* challenges us to envision intellectually rigorous and culturally relevant classrooms that have the power to improve the lives of not just African American students, but all children. This new edition also includes questions for reflection

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## **Customer Reviews**

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L. Jackson, president and founder, National Rainbow Coalition "The Dreamkeepers is an immensely important and useful book for teachers and teacher educators. . . . In a creative, credible, and persuasive way, Gloria Ladson-Billings has made a major contribution to the field of multicultural education." à "JaCquelleine Jordan Irvine, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Urban Education, Emory University "Ladson-Billings integrates scholarly research with stories of eight successful teachers in a predominantly African American school district to illustrate that the 'dream' of all teachers and parentsâ "academic success for all childrenâ "is alive and can be emulated." à "Library Journal "Here is a book filled with pride and questions that should stimulate anyone interested in improving education." à "Booklist

Gloria Ladson-Billings is the Kellner Family Chair in Urban Education and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Previously, she served on the faculty of Santa Clara University and worked as a teacher and consultant in the Philadelphia public school system. She is the former president of the American Educational Research Association, and was elected to the National Academy of Education. Dr. Ladson-Billings is the author and editor of numerous articles and books, including *The Dreamkeepers*, *Crossing Over to Canaan*, and *Beyond the Big House*.

This book was mentioned in a staff development, I am a junior high teacher, I bought a copy. It is an interesting read and very informative and provocative. One of the things which I was most taken by was the level at which it was written. Gloria Ladson-Billings is an excellent author and has edited this book extremely well. Quite often when I read books with similar content to this, I find myself frustrated by the authors voice changing from a third person to first person experiences, but trying to pass them off as third person. Gloria Ladson-Billings uses distinct textual transitions to keep this from becoming muddled and confusing or boring. I especially appreciate that she doesn't try to pass her opinions off as fact - again - she has written this book extremely well.

Truly a skillful and critical piece of empirical work turned into an amazing book that emphasizes the effective practices of teachers who teach in predominantly African American schools. My only question is (and this is a rhetorical question)...WHY on earth can we not seem to change educational practices in teaching African American students? Excellent book!

I love having this resource as I work with pre-service teachers on multicultural education. The text is

a necessary tool for educators.

I used this book for a Graduate School paper. It was a very interesting book with real life stories. It was easy to read with a lot of great ideas for teaching not just African American children but all children.

I used this classic for my education masters' thesis. So much information in it that I needed to read it several times.

I read this book for my Critical Pedagogy class (a class for social justice). I'm heading back to school to become a teacher. I rate this book 4 stars and I would recommend it to anyone who works with youth. Ladson-Billings writes about an extensive study she conducted with the purpose of identifying what methodologies have been most successful in helping African American students achieve academic success. In general, the book is full of amazing teaching strategies and inspiring stories. One of the main focuses though is what she calls culturally relevant teaching. I love the principles of this pedagogy and find that it fits in quite well with my own teaching philosophies. According to Ladson-Billings, culturally relevant teaching is a pedagogy that empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to impart knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Throughout the book, she focuses on African American students and their teachers. Although she doesn't explicitly speak of other ethnicities, I assume that much of what she writes be relevant and applicable in a general multicultural school setting. I truly enjoyed reading about successful teaching stories strategies but I began the book by thinking she was going to emphasize a clearer strategy of high quality education that minority students will best benefit from but I finished the book feeling like this was never explicitly stated. I guess for me, I truly believe that ALL students will benefit from the use of culturally relevant teaching. I still gave it 4 stars because the stories are inspiring and, as I said, culturally relevant teaching and critical pedagogy are important in general. In the end, I would recommend this book to anyone who works with youth, but I just felt like I had to sift through the stories a bit to find the anticipated seeds of wisdom.

This is an incredible book, I recommend it for anyone thinking about teaching in any community.

Absolutely loved this book! Read it for a class and it was so easy and interesting to read!!

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