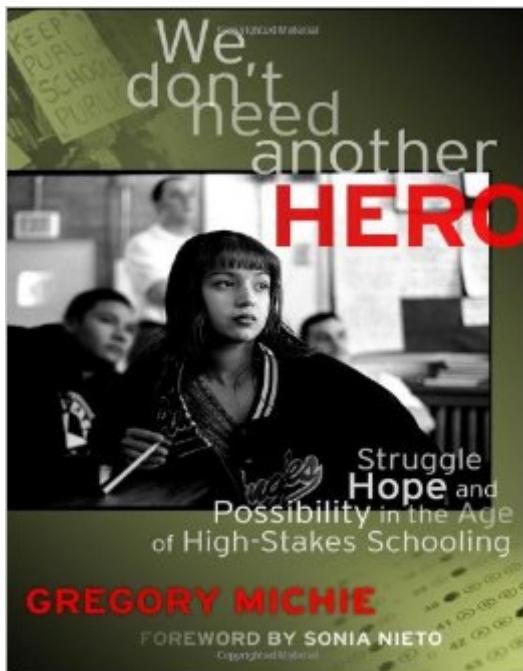


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We Don't Need Another Hero: Struggle, Hope, And Possibility In The Age Of High-Stakes Schooling



Synopsis

"Greg Michie is right: we don't need another hero. The heroes are already there: they are our students, as well as the teachers and administrators who have a passion for justice. Those are the voices we must heed." --From the Foreword by Sonia Nieto, professor emerita, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

"There is no writer working today who captures the excruciating complexity of a life in teaching with as much grace and clarity as Gregory Michie. These everyday heroes are the heart of teaching and the soul of democracy." --William Ayers, educator and bestselling author of *To Teach*, Third Edition and *Teaching the Taboo*

Gregory Michie's experiences in the classroom and his purview post-teaching make this a good peek into the thoughts of a man willing to challenge the current notions of education reform. Rather than sit in frustration over the current tenor surrounding these so-called reforms, Michie seeks meaningful progress and solutions." --Jose Luis Vilson, NYC Public School lead teacher and writer at TheJoseVilson.com

In his latest book, bestselling author Gregory Michie critiques high-stakes schooling and provides a powerful alternative vision of teaching as a humanistic enterprise, students as multidimensional beings, and schools as spaces where young people can imagine and become, not just "achieve." Drawing on his experiences over the past two decades as a classroom teacher, community volunteer, researcher, and teacher educator in Chicago's public schools, Michie offers compelling accounts of teaching and learning in urban America. Mindful of the complex realities educators face, he portrays urban schools as they really are: sites of struggle, hope, and possibility. At a time when others relentlessly trumpet a competitive, data-driven, corporatized notion of education, the essays in *We Don't Need Another Hero* challenge the dominant images of failing urban schools and bad teachers. Like Michie's now classic *Holler If You Hear Me*, this book gives much-needed hope to new and seasoned teachers alike. It is also an important resource for school administrators, policymakers, parents, and anyone who wants to better understand what is really happening in American schools.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The missionary zeal, born of the "White Man's Burden", seems to have returned home to roost right in our own major cities. Highly educated, generally quite well off, often (although not always) well-intentioned white people have decided that inner city children shouldn't be left to founder at "failing" schools. School reform (measured almost exclusively by increases in standardized test scores) "can't wait". Education is, according to these modern missionaries, "the civil rights issue of our time." Fortunately, these missionaries know just what to do. They think. Like foreign missionaries, these bright-eyed young urban missionaries overlook the role of their own dominant culture in creating the "need" for their help in the first place. Elephant-in-the-room issues like race, class and poverty get swept aside as mere "excuses". What's needed are higher expectations, more "rigorous" demands, and greater "accountability". I suspect, although I admit I don't know, that Gregory Michie was originally one of those starry-eyed, rather blind missionaries. As a young, white, professional male, he took advantage of a truncated career change education program which places proven professionals into urban classrooms without going through a complete, accredited teacher certification program. The theory behind most such programs is that people with proven management and other professional skills can bring their experience in to transform urban education, often along business model lines. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work out as planned, as many of these transplants realize that teaching in an urban environment is a bit more complicated than balancing spreadsheets and many don't stay in the classroom for long.

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