IB CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS 2015

Chicago, IL • 23–26 July
The Cage - BUSTING Teacher
IB Conference of the Americas
July 24th, 2015
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The Classroom Cage

Can someone please help this poor man out of his cage?
The Bars of the Cage

- Isolating culture
- Being told “Stay in your lane”
- Churning leadership
- Policy that doesn’t make sense
Romanticizing the Cage

O CAPTAIN
MY CAPTAIN

Dead Poets Society
Why Teachers Get Frustrated

"Then, gentlemen, it is the consensus of this meeting that we say nothing, do nothing, and hope it all blows over before our next meeting."
Stuck in the Cage
YOU WILL RESPECT MY AUTHORITY!
The Stuff of Cage-Busting Doesn’t Get Much Attention

Note: From 29 most recommended books for teachers. Books found by combining GoodReads’ top 20 books for “teacher” with a list collected by collating results from first three pages of a Google search for “recommended books for teachers.”
How Did We Get Here?
It Doesn’t Have to be This Way

“I had an epiphany.”
Cage-Busting and the Classroom
Cages Can Be Busted If You...

- Identify Problems

"There's your problem."
Cages Can Be Busted If You...

- Identify problems
- Offer solutions

“Pee on the carpet!” That’s your solution to everything.”
Cages Can Be Busted If You…

- Identify problems
- Offer solutions
- Empathize and ask

“Oh, that’s right, Starwick, cry—mock my inability to empathize.”
There’s Strength in Numbers
It’s a Choice, Man

“At what point does this become our problem?”
Those Damn Policymakers

"I want out!"
Getting Started

- Action drives culture
- Start small, be concrete
- Practice before policy
A Few Tips to Remember

• You can make your principal great
• The “lucky” get luckier
• Focus on solving problems
• Police the profession
CAGE-BUSTING
THE CAGE-BUSTING TEACHER

For articles, interviews, videos and other resources:
www.cagebustingteacher.com
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