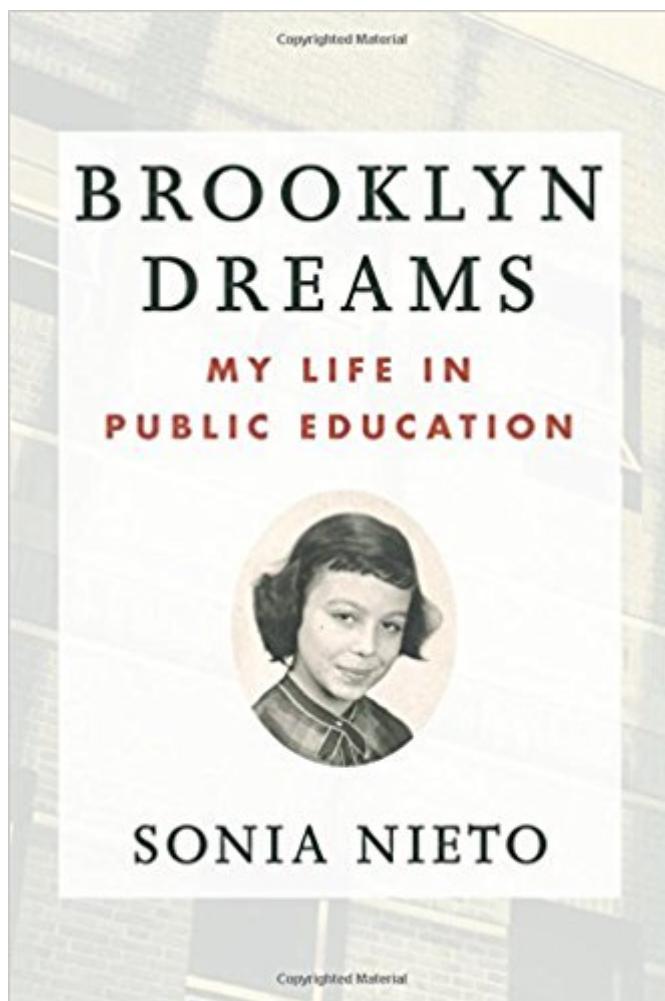


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Brooklyn Dreams: My Life In Public Education



Synopsis

In Brooklyn Dreams, Sonia Nieto— one of the leading authors and teachers in the field of multicultural education— looks back on her formative experiences as a student, activist, and educator, and shows how they reflect and illuminate the themes of her life’s work. Nieto offers a poignant account of her childhood and the complexities of navigating the boundaries between the rich culture of her working-class Puerto Rican family and the world of school. Brooklyn Dreams also chronicles her experiences as a fledgling teacher at the first bilingual public school in New York City—in the midst of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville strike—and the heady days of activism during the founding of the bilingual education program at Brooklyn College and later in establishing and running an alternative multicultural school in Amherst, Massachusetts. Along the way, Nieto reflects on the ideas and individuals who influenced her work, from Jonathan Kozol to Paulo Freire, and talks frankly about the limits of activism, the failures of school reform, and the joys and challenges of working with preservice and in-service educators to deepen their appreciation of diversity. Brooklyn Dreams is an intimate account of an educator’s life lived with zest, generosity, and warmth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brooklyn Dreams: My Life in Public Education, by Sonia Nieto, makes a major contribution on issues of economic inequality in education as well as the strengths and necessity of bilingual and multicultural education.— Jacqueline J. Saindon, EdD, Journal of Language Literacy Education Nieto’s autobiography encourages the reader to reflect on the forces that shape

one's own life as an educator and education activist. •Deborah Menkart, Allyson Criner Brown, Zanso Dalili, Bill Bigelow, and Jody Sokolower, *Rethinking Schools*

In *Brooklyn Dreams*, Sonia Nieto— one of the leading authors and teachers in the field of multicultural education— looks back on her formative experiences as a student, activist, and educator, and shows how they reflect and illuminate the themes of her life—'s work. "Sonia Nieto has inspired and guided countless educators through her scholarship, teaching, and advocacy. *Brooklyn Dreams* provides a firsthand account of how one teacher with passion and vision has transformed a field. All educators who care about powerful learning and social justice will love this book." •Linda Darling-Hammond, Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education, Emeritus, Stanford University "A beautiful retrospective on life, struggle, and teaching from one of the most insightful scholars in the field of education. Sonia Nieto's ability to interrogate and reflect on her experience as a Puerto Rican educator provides a unique vantage point from which to understand many of the complex issues confronting our schools and society today." •Pedro Noguera, distinguished professor of education, Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles "From her modest Brooklyn beginnings to her contemporary moment of jubilation, Sonia Nieto reminds us with this very intimate labor of love that transformation, whether personal or political, always begins with the courage and freedom to dream." •Antonia Darder, author, *Culture and Power in the Classroom*, and Leavy Presidential Chair of Ethics and Moral Leadership, Loyola Marymount University "This riveting, discerning, and illuminating memoir is a complex and seamless tapestry of Nieto's personal and professional journey into which she weaves incisive pedagogical insights. Her memoir is a quintessential American saga and is a compelling, inspiring, and essential read." •James A. Banks, Kerry and Linda Killinger Endowed Chair in Diversity Studies, and founding director, Center for Multicultural Education, University of Washington, Seattle Sonia Nieto is a professor emerita of language, literacy, and culture at the College of Education at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In 2014, she received the Medal for Distinguished Service, the highest honor given by Teachers College at Columbia University.

This is an excellent biography with discussion of critical issues in education and teaching. Fascinating to read about Nieto's upbringing in Brooklyn, changes in her life as her family moved, and decisions to pursue education as a career. *Brooklyn Dreams* is not only informative but quite

moving, as Nieto discusses family challenges and frustrations, and the support networks in her life which made a difference in her trajectory.

This book is engaging and heartwarming, a combination of life stories and inspiration for multicultural education.

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