

# Stories From The Playground

How Student Voice & Stories Can  
Transform School Culture





Liberty to Learn  
Liberty to **SPEAK!**





Liberty to Learn  
Liberty to **SPEAK!**

The National Title I Association is dedicated to improving and implementing the Title I program so that more children reach their academic potential.





Liberty to Learn  
Liberty to **SPEAK!**

**The U.S. Dept. of Education** is dedicated to program improvement for At-Risk Students, Drop Out Prevention, Comprehensive Reform (SEC 1002) & Funding (SEC 1003)





# Stories from the Playground



How Students Write Narratives to Help  
Educators Solve Problems in Schools

**Rick Jetter**

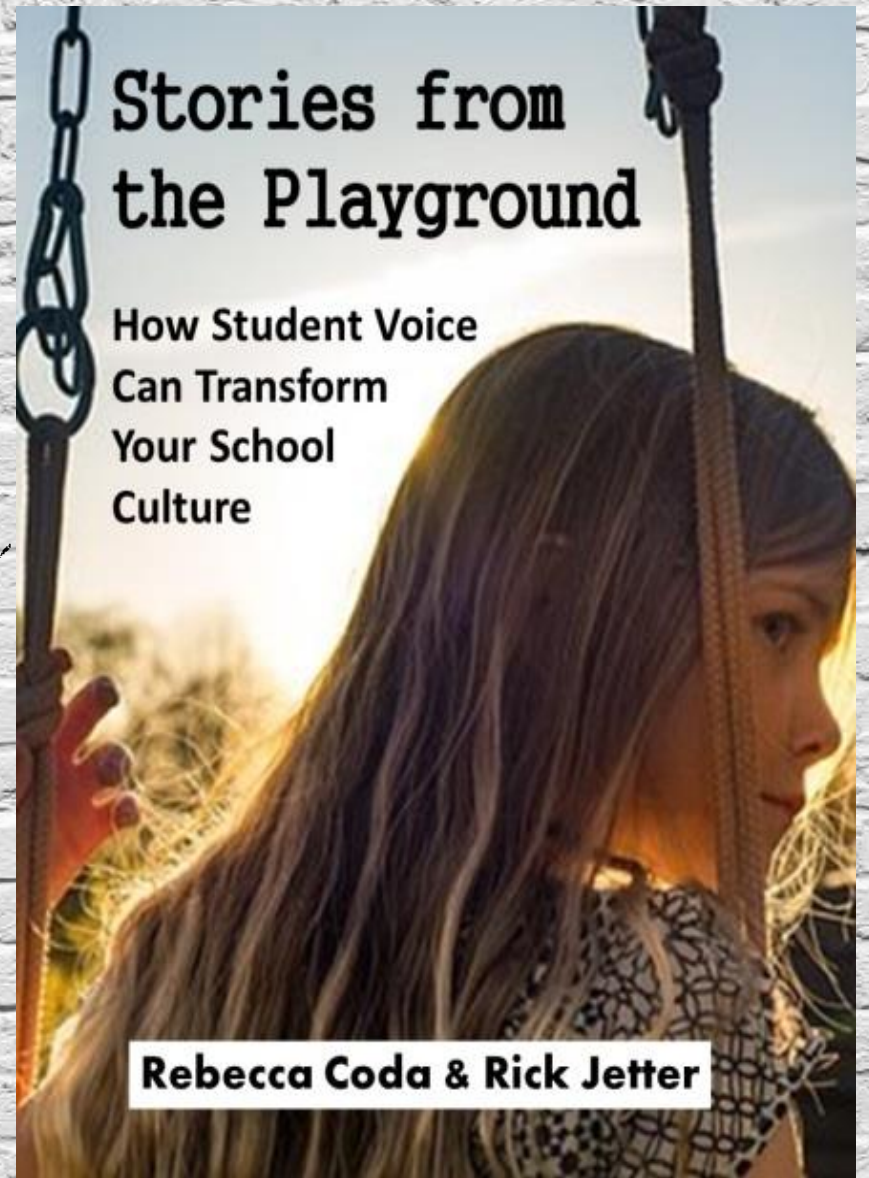
Formerly Known as:  
Stories from the Playground



# Stories from the Playground

How Student Voice  
Can Transform  
Your School  
Culture

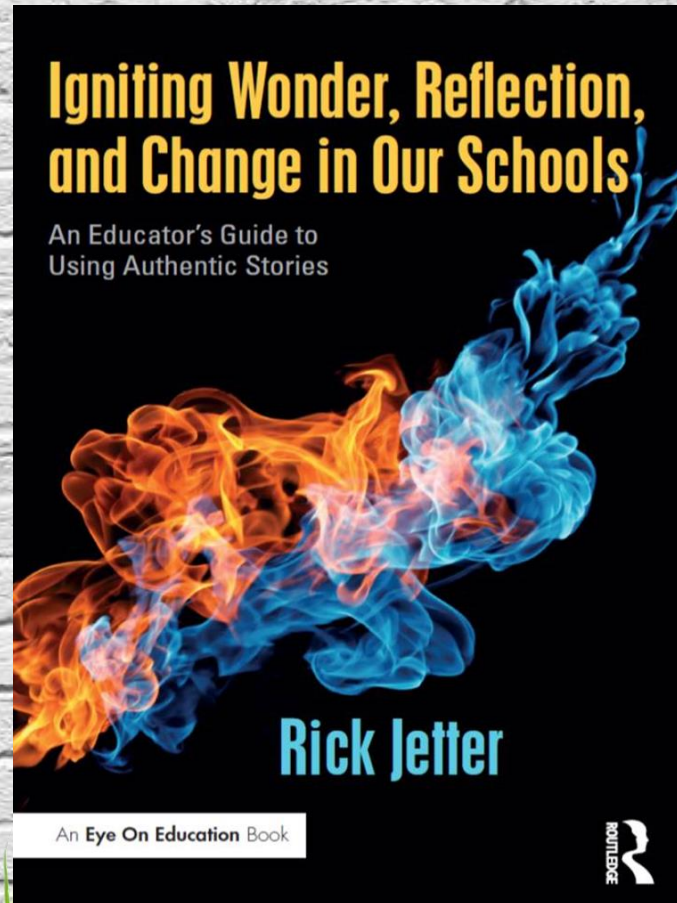
**Rebecca Coda & Rick Jetter**





# The Project was Born

**Sheely Farms Elementary  
School  
K-8  
Title 1 School  
94% free/reduced  
lunch  
92% Hispanic population.**



**Spruce Elementary  
School  
K-6  
Title 1 School  
77% free/reduced  
lunch  
98% white population.**



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#weleadby



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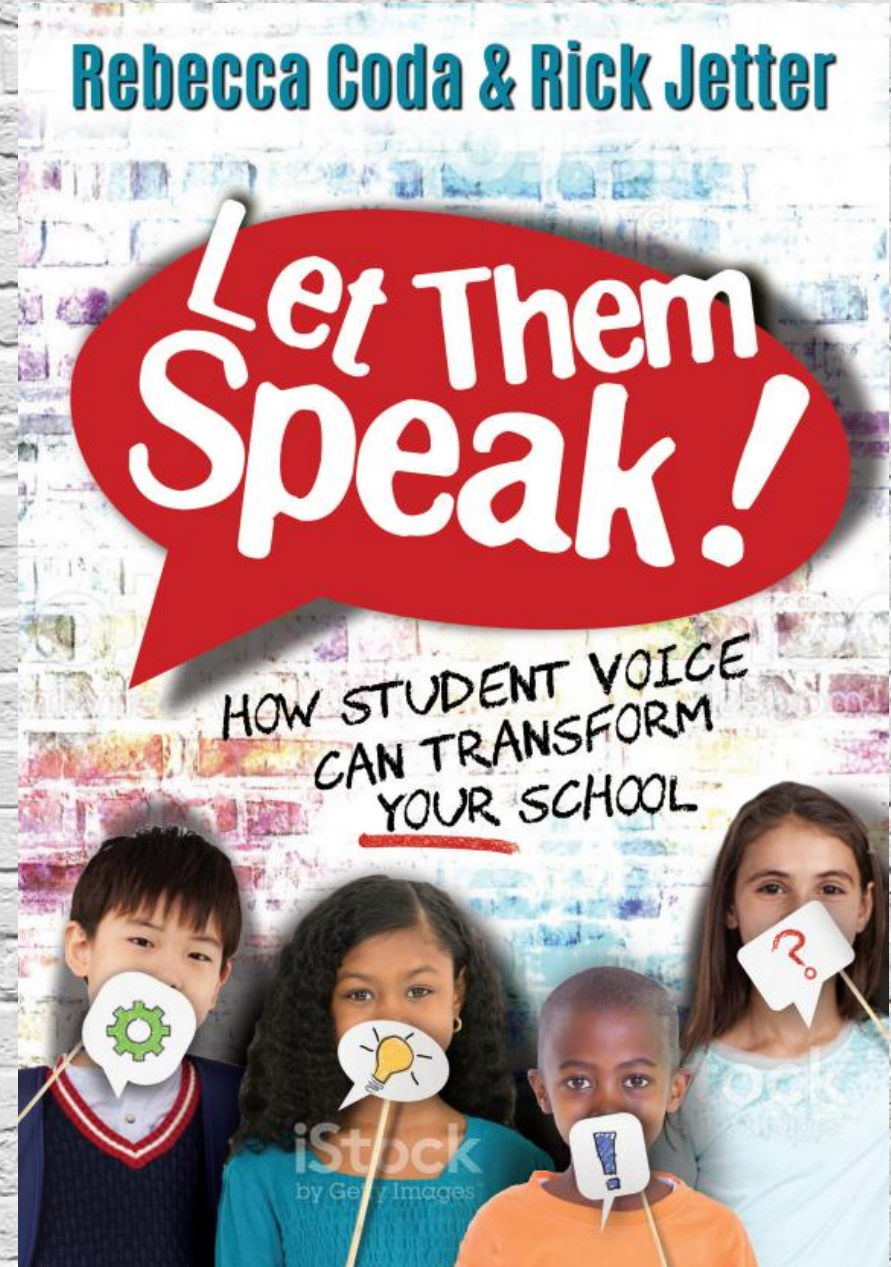




@isterlingn



#WeLeadBY  
#LetStudentsSpeak







@isterlingn

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#LetStudentsSpeak

#weleadby





# THE LET THEM SPEAK! PROJECT

*“You cannot just sit back and complain about the system unless you are willing to transform that which is dysfunctional into functional.”*



[#LetStudentsSpeak](#)



# AGENDA

Part 1: Why Student Voice is Relevant and Matters!

Part 2: Student Voice in Action!

Part 3: Now What?





# Part 1: Why Student Voice is Relevant and Matters!



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# The Importance of "Turf"



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# Activators vs. Mufflers



VOICE



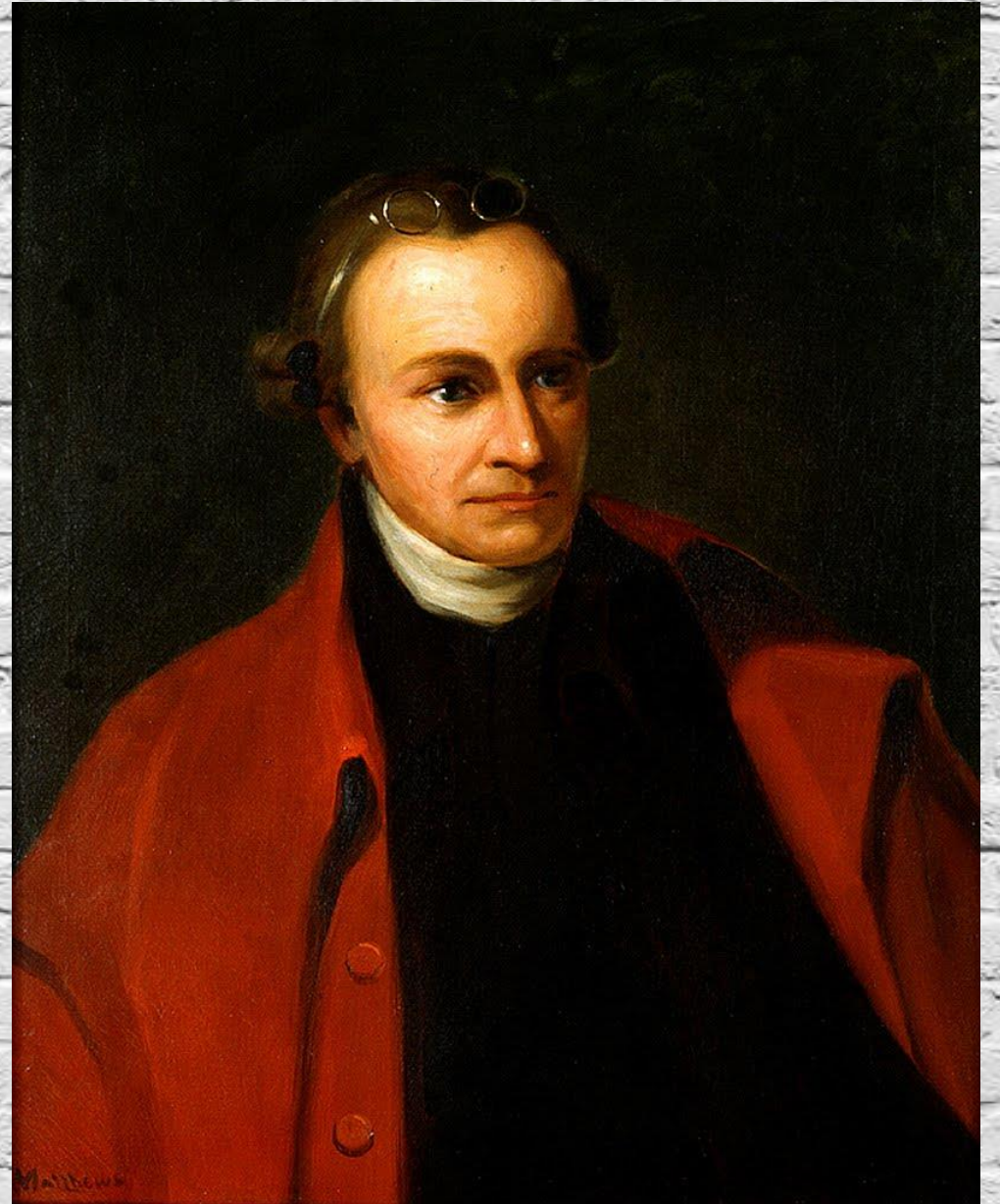
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# The Concept of Healthy Treason

**If this be treason, make the most of it!**

**—Patrick Henry**

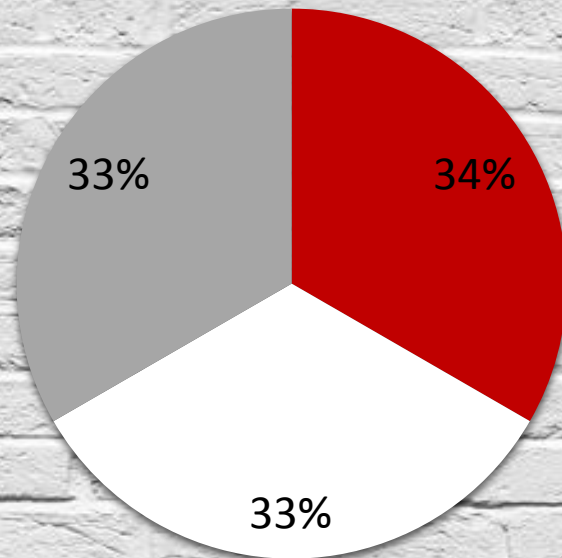




# Perception is the Missing Link

## School Data

■ Perception ■ Achievement ■ Demographic



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# Part 2: Student Voice in Action



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# Why “Narrativize” Stories?



**Historicizing  
Student Voice =  
Poetry, Narrative,  
Text.**

**Let Them  
Speak!**



# Relationships



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# Instruction



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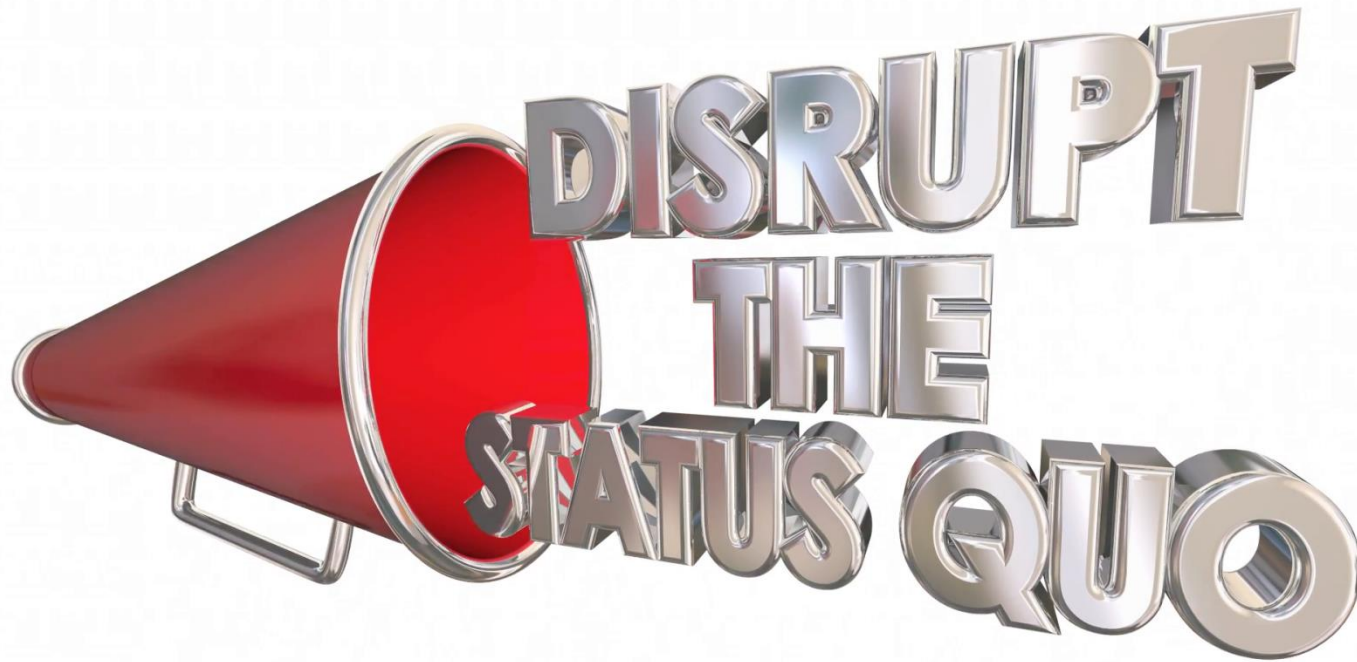


# Programming Decisions



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*What is interesting about rules is that for every rule that we create, there is always a really good reason to break it.*



# Policies, Procedures, Rules



***If I get suspended from something I did wrong at the prom, why am I not allowed to attend graduation? Why . . . because graduation takes place within the 5 day suspension that I received so I'm not allowed to be on school property or attend school events, according to the discipline policy?***

**--Dana Thompson, Grade 12**



# Diversity & Individuality

***My position is that I would like to have access to the nurse's office lavatory where there is one toilet inside a locked door that can be used by male, female, or any LGBTQ student.***

**--Stewart Niles, Grade 11**

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# Part 3: Now What?



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# VOICE Activation



LEADERSHIP

DISCIPLINE

ASSEMBLIES

INNOVATION

PROGRAMS

SPORTS

GRADING

LITERACY

SCIENCE

CONFERENCES

ASSESSMENT

LGTBQ

FIELD TRIPS

LEARNING

SOCIAL STUDIES

FUNDRAISERS

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MATH

MOTIVATION



# Time Is An Excuse

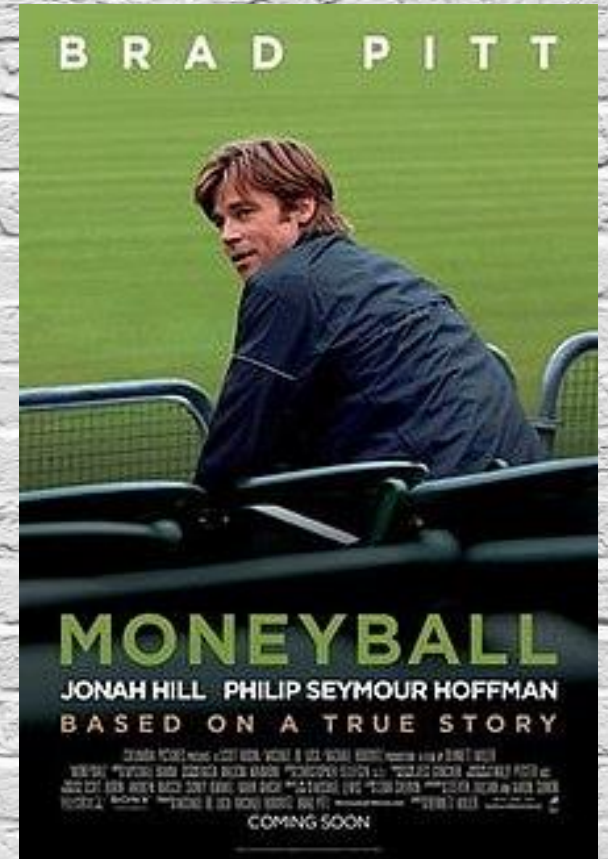


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# What can we learn from Moneyball?



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We must buck up and allow our students to tell us things that we might take the wrong way or become upset about and then label those things as helpful to our growth, not crippling to our egos.



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BOUNDARIES**



**This is our Pushing Boundaries Team!**  
Check us out at [www.pushboundconsulting.com](http://www.pushboundconsulting.com)!



**We carry out data collection audits for Title 1 Schools.**

**We assist in facilitating data collection processes and reporting.**

**We link data collection (including student voice) to outcomes (achievement, reform, cultural change).**

**We present to School Boards.**

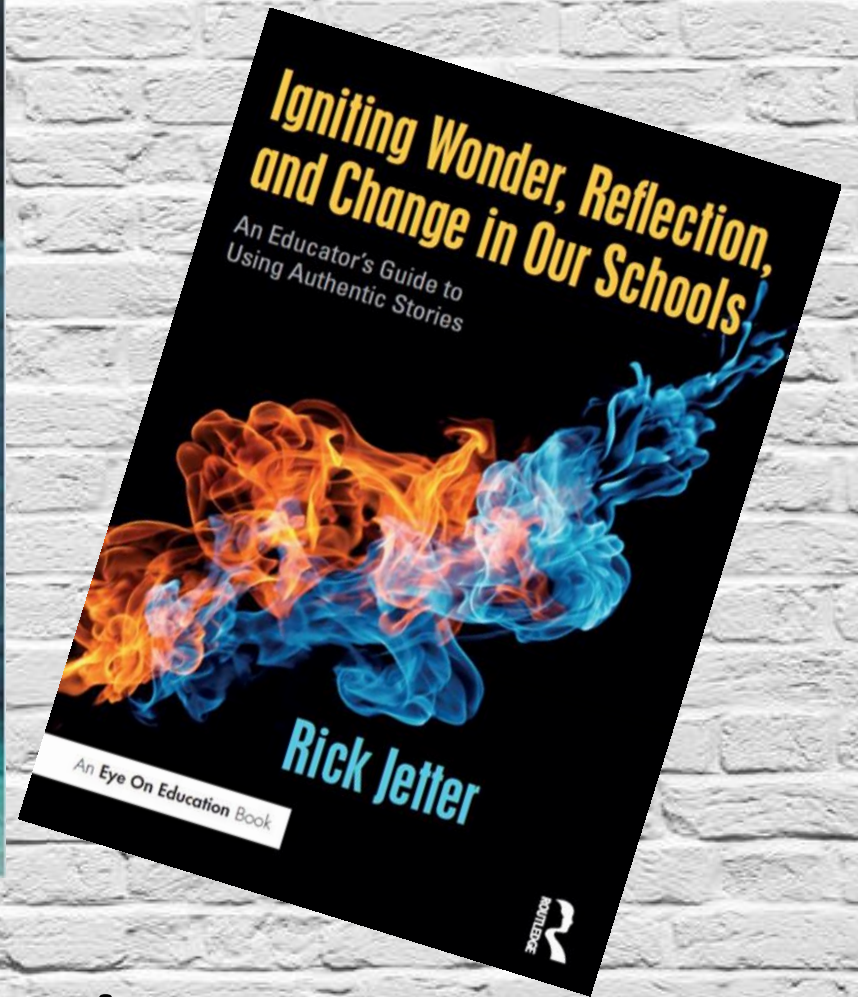
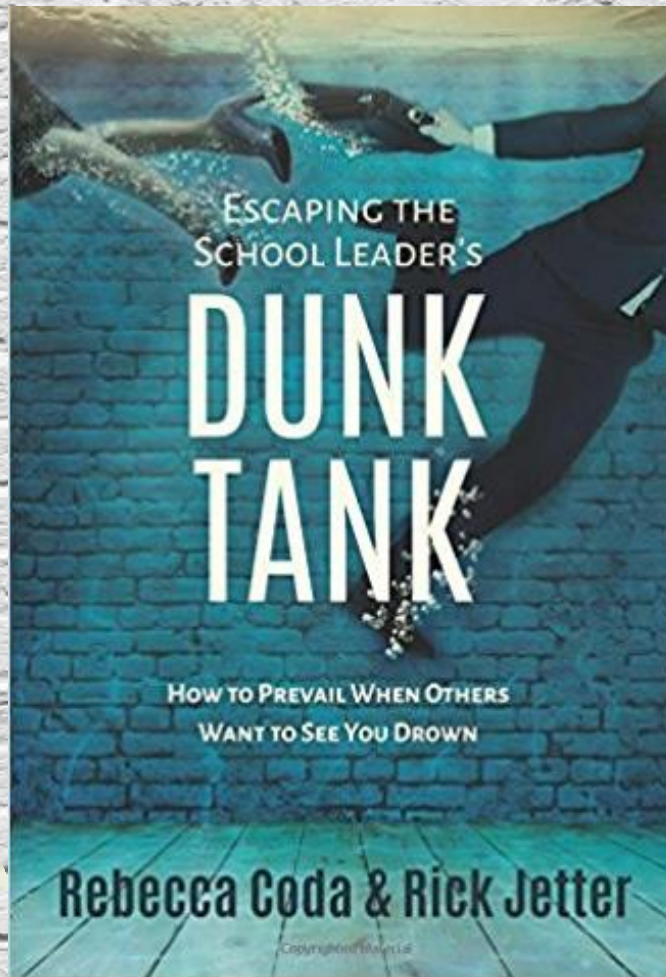
**We train entire school staff.**

**[www.letthempeak.net](http://www.letthempeak.net)**

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Speak!**







**Let's continue our conversation . . .  
We are headed down to the book store!**