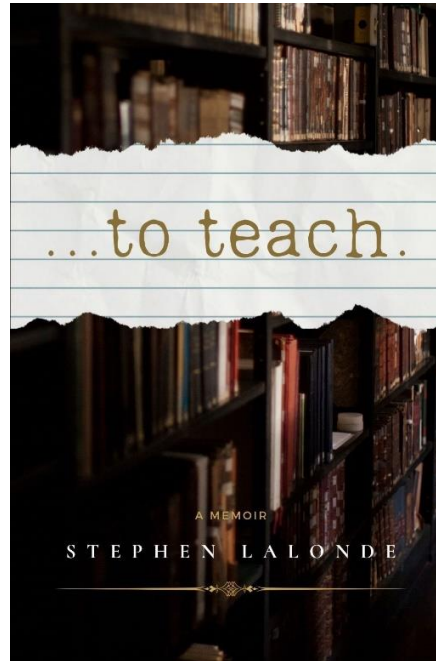


To Teach



Stephen LaLonde

Reviewed by Elena S. Smith

At first sight, Stephen LaLonde's memoir ... *To Teach*... seems to be a life story of an ordinary teacher of English and Greek mythology at a regular high school. However, by the end of his book, I realized there is nothing ordinary about Stephen LaLonde. He, like Hercules, one of the mythological Greek Heroes, possesses superior powers of an extraordinary Human, and an exceptional Teacher. His memoir proves that if you are passionate about something, go for it without any hesitation. It would be great if every beginner teacher read ... to teach...

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This memoir begins when LaLonde sent a letter to Glenwood Schools (in Washington State), stating his degree and writing the short sentence, "I want to teach." Thus, began his career as a public-school teacher that spanned four decades. Since there wasn't any housing available at that time for his family (wife and baby boy), they ended up in a mobile home he and his wife hurriedly purchased. The site they were to park the mobile home in didn't work out at that time, so it was parked along the edge of the high school parking lot for the first week of school. Showers and meals had to be done in the school. Finally, it was moved to the site and after several weeks into the school year, it was ready for the winter and rest of the year.

During the three years he taught at Glenwood, he was very involved with many things such as learning activity packets for his students, working on the school's yearbook, coaching, and creating new classes.

After he left Glenwood, he worked for five years in the automotive business and four years with the Boy Scouts as a field executive. He learned a lot during these years that would help him in teaching in the future.

He never lost his love of teaching and eventually joined the staff at University High School in Spokane Valley, WA. Here, he created a class in Greek Mythology, which he loved. Also, he created a Radio and TV class and later a Video Production class. All of this led to several awards for Lalonde.

Having assembled a large library on Greek Mythology, he was paid by NASA to produce a webpage on the goddess Athena. Throughout his book, he shared many letters from former students who were very much influenced by his teaching and values and thus, became very successful in their own lives, too.

As a former teacher, I really enjoyed reading this book. Lalonde is an exceptional, super, creative teacher who motivated his students to enjoy learning.

...*To Teach* is very well-written and interesting. I recommend this book for one and all and especially for those wanting to teach.



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