

Book review

Teacher Stories: Stories from the Edges of Language Teaching, edited by Paul Walsh and Theresa Gorman, 2015, Grassroots Press. [Free download here](#)

In their introduction, editors Walsh and Gorman open fire and write:

“Even though foreign language learning is a global, multi-million dollar industry, the people who labour to keep this industry running—working teachers—are largely invisible. We wanted to change this, to make visible the lives of ordinary teachers.”

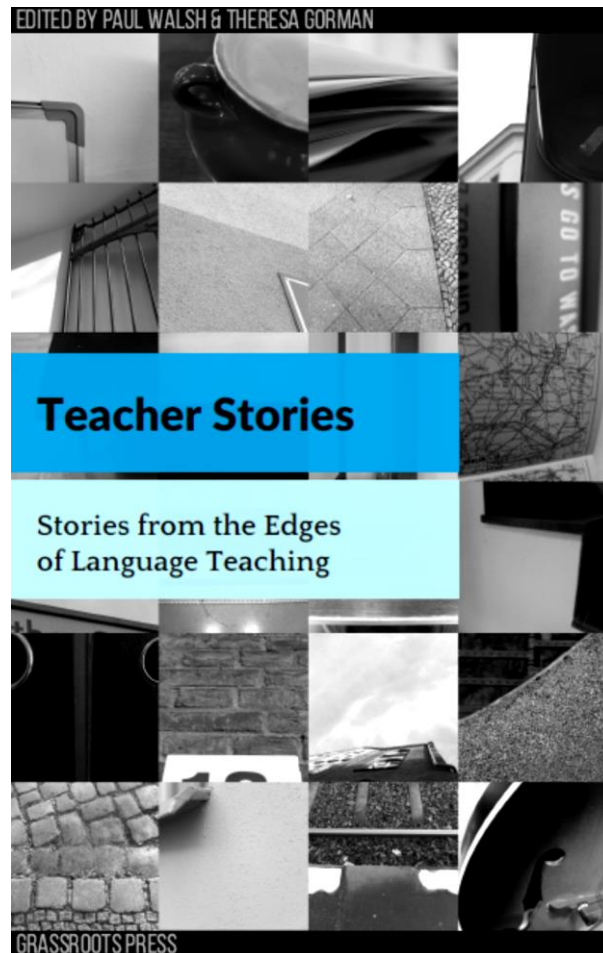
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And so the editors collected six stories told by

foreign language teachers in different countries. Most of them are told in first person singular, like a moment in the life of each teacher-writer. One is more like a diary, a collection of letters from the author’s friend called Joe.

Each story is about teaching. Each story is about learning. Teaching and learning inside and outside classroom walls. Lived experiences which go beyond the profession to highlight something obvious: teachers are people just like anybody else, like you. Teachers have stories to tell and these stories reflect their identities, their lessons learnt, their own biographies inscribed in a network of days which may be repetitive and uneventful, but hey! these stories come to show that there’s a lot to talk about if we’re ready to share it.

I like the book because it’s authored by teachers. I don’t like it because there are only six stories. I like it because it’s an invitation to write more than six stories. We could gather 60, 600 or 6,000 stories from teachers. Or we can have a single story that represents all the stories that take place in Teacherland. Probably your own story could become that story that ignited the fire, *los fueguitos de Eduardo Galeano*.



Reviewed by Darío Luis Banegas