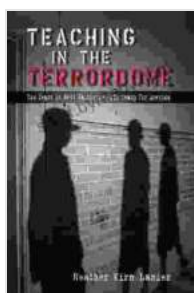


Two Years In West Baltimore With Teach For America

A firsthand account of the challenges and rewards of teaching in an underserved community

In the fall of 2017, I packed my bags and moved to West Baltimore to teach with Teach For America. I had always been passionate about education and social justice, and I saw this as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students who needed it most.



Teaching in the Terrordome: Two Years in West Baltimore with Teach for America by Heather Kirn Lanier

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1323 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 256 pages



I was assigned to teach fourth grade at an elementary school in the heart of one of Baltimore's most impoverished neighborhoods. The school was underfunded and overcrowded, and the students faced a multitude of challenges, including poverty, violence, and trauma.

It was immediately clear to me that teaching in West Baltimore was going to be a challenge. The students were far behind academically, and they

had a lot of emotional and behavioral issues. I quickly realized that I needed to be more than just a teacher. I needed to be a mentor, a counselor, and a friend.

Despite the challenges, I fell in love with my students. They were bright, funny, and resilient. They had a thirst for knowledge and a desire to succeed. I was determined to do everything I could to help them reach their full potential.

One of the most difficult aspects of teaching in West Baltimore was the constant exposure to violence. I saw firsthand the devastating effects of poverty and inequality. I saw students who had been traumatized by violence, and I saw how it affected their ability to learn and grow.

Despite the challenges, I believe that teaching in West Baltimore was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I learned so much about myself, about the world, and about the power of education. I saw how even the smallest act of kindness can make a difference in a child's life.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have taught in West Baltimore. It was a transformative experience that has shaped who I am today. I am committed to continuing to work for educational equity and social justice, and I believe that my experiences in West Baltimore will help me to be a more effective advocate for change.

Here are some of the lessons I learned from my two years in West Baltimore:

- Poverty is a complex issue that has a profound impact on children's lives.

- Violence is a major problem in Baltimore, and it has a devastating effect on the city's children.
- Trauma can have a significant impact on a child's ability to learn and grow.
- Education is a powerful tool that can help to break the cycle of poverty and violence.
- Teachers play a vital role in the lives of their students, and they can make a real difference in the world.

I hope that my story will inspire others to get involved in the fight for educational equity and social justice. I believe that together, we can create a better future for all children.

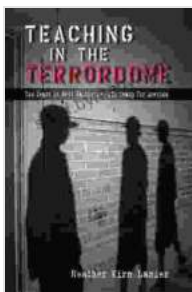
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Photo credit: Teach For America



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