

Christopher Emdin: ***For White folks who teach in the hood...and the rest of y'all too***

Reviewed by Stephanie Colwell

For white folks who teach in the hood and the rest of y'all too should be REQUIRED reading for anyone who ever wants to teach in America.

This book is what I signed up for this class for: to study in the art of pedagogy even though I'm not an education major in hopes of one day sharing my love of the writing craft with the young of the marginalized masses.

In Christopher emdin's title, I'm "the rest of y'all too". I grew up hanging with the kids in the gifted classes, and because of this country's sordid racist history and unrectified systemic inequality, those kids were almost exclusively white. So while I am a black woman, I grew up in monogrammed suburbia; it has always been my fear that if I taught in an urban school system I would be screwed. While I have a socially nuanced understanding of the world based on the identities I hold, I was taught the same thing about poor black students and every other white teacher. But I'm supposed to be different—the kids will expect me to be different and I want to be. This book is the path.