

Five minutes on courage for CharacterPlus

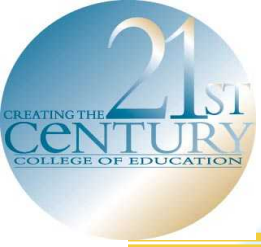
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CENTER FOR
CHARACTER &
CITIZENSHIP

University of Missouri-St. Louis—College of Education

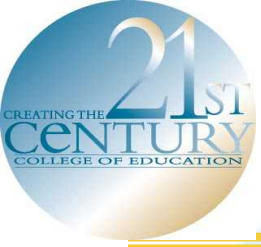


People often think of
courage, while perhaps hard
to do, as simple to
understand...

It is not

The Complexity of Courage

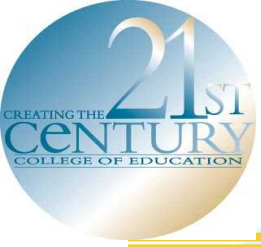




I want you to meet a
courageous person...

I may be a little angel, but I don't have wings





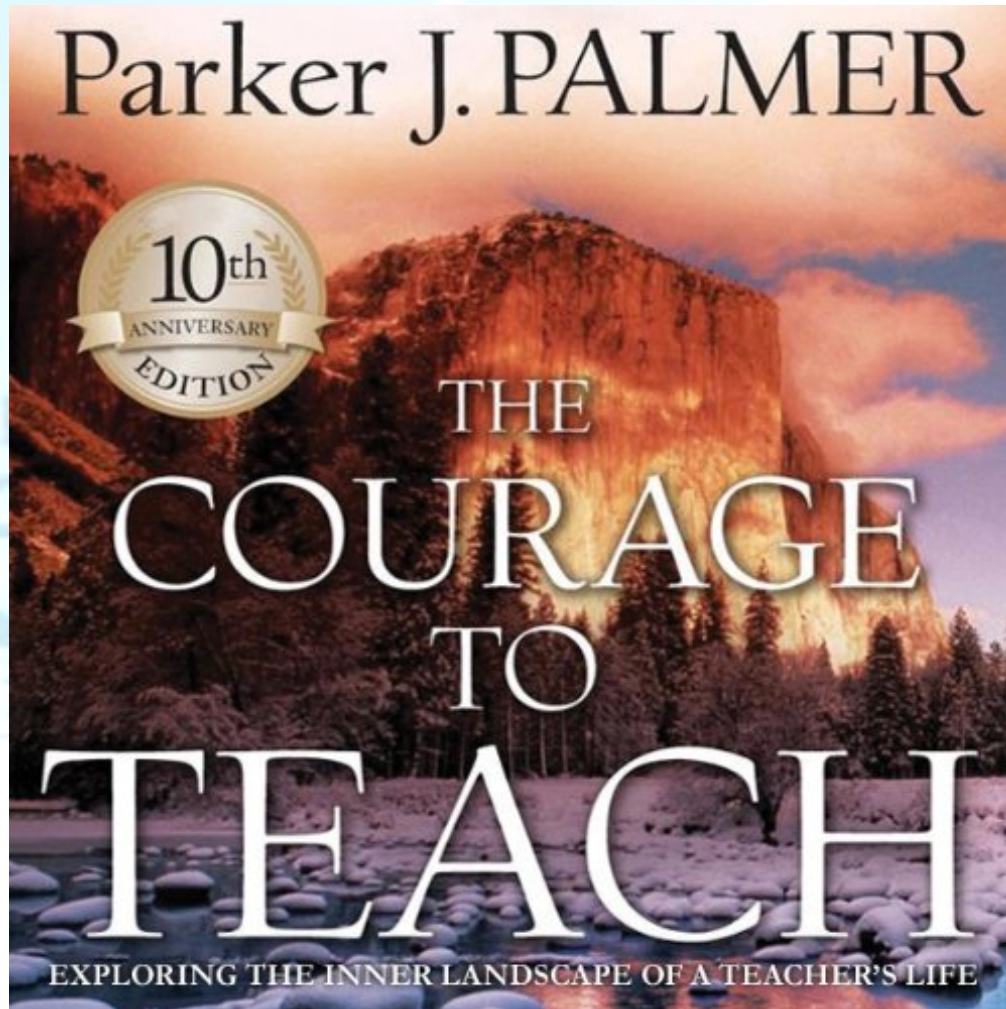
I want you to meet two more
courageous people...

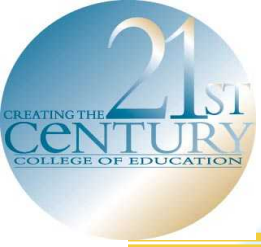
Why must I be a teenager in love?



The Teacher



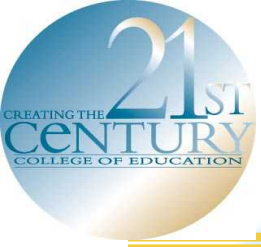




"The Courage to Teach"

Parker Palmer

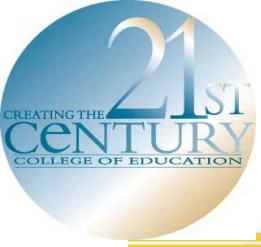
- Effective teaching requires being authentic
- It takes courage to be authentically present in a classroom
- Students are watching and judging you
- Public speaking is one of the greatest human fears



For Erik Erikson, normal
healthy development
requires courage at each
stage of the life-span

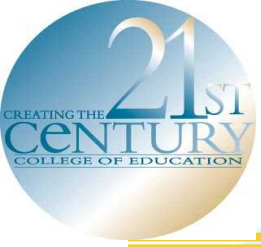
"The strength acquired at any stage is tested by the necessity to transcend it in such a way that the individual can take chances in the next stage with what was most vulnerably precious in the previous one"

Erik Erikson *Childhood and Society*



Defining Courage

CREATING THE
CENTURY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

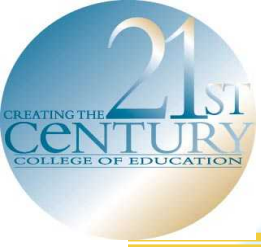


Aristotle's Moral Mean

Cowardice

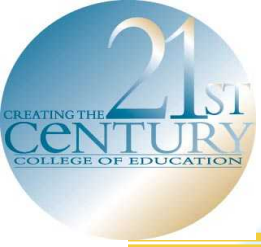
Courage

Recklessness



Appropriate Fear

"Courage is the mastery of fear, not the absence of fear" Mark Twain



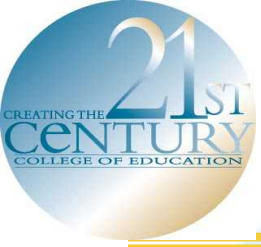
Types of Courage

David Putnam (1997)

- **Physical** - overcoming fear of physical harm to oneself
- **Moral** - maintaining ethical integrity in the face of negative consequences to oneself
- **Psychological** - Facing and overcoming one's inner demons

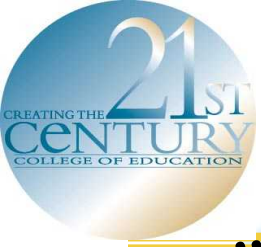
“The courageous man is dauntless as a human being. Hence he will fear what is fearful; but he will endure it in the right way and as reason directs for the sake of acting nobly...He is courageous who endures and fears the right things, for the right motive, in the right manner, and at the right time.”

Aristotle - The Nichomachean Ethics



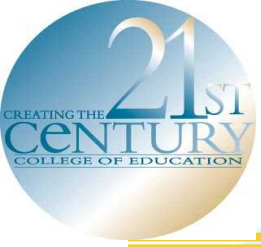
The Qualities of Courage

- Prudence: Appropriate fear
- Enduring the fear
- Persevering in the face of fear
- Moral motivation: Doing so for noble reasons
- Doing the right thing: Acting morally



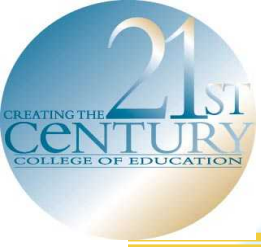
"All men are frightened. The more intelligent they are, the more they are frightened. The courageous man is the man who forces himself, in spite of his fear, to carry on"

General George S. Patton, Jr.



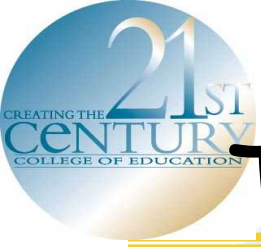
For the Right Reasons

- Moral motivations
- Having the wisdom to discern just causes



Root of Courage

- Temperament (timidity vs. fearlessness)
- Eriksonian trust (vs. mistrust)
- Parental modeling
- Moral identity; purpose



The Complexity of Courage

- 9/11 terrorists
- The masochist enduring suffering out of enjoyment of pain
- Fearless daredevils
 - Eric Register's friend who went outback snowboarding alone
- The 7 month old baby crossing the visual cliff
- The one-time hero; person who is usually not brave but acts courageously in one extreme circumstance
- Neurotic who pushes against fears
- The whistle blower who believes all will embrace her action and instead is vilified
- The 15 year old girl who asks a popular boy on a date
- The Cowardly Lion (Wizard of Oz)

Dedicated to the memory of Major Hugh Thompson



Q: Do you feel it took courage to refuse to fight the war in the first place?

Hugh Thompson: Yes, in retrospect, I think it took a lot of courage. According to history today, we shouldn't have been there. So going against the norm, I guess, would demand a whole lot of courage