



ISBN: 9798348810382



***The Courage to Learn* is a compassionate and deeply necessary guide for educators committed to building classrooms rooted in trust, curiosity, and radical possibility. This is a bold invitation to reimagine learning as a courageous act.**



**Dr. Darius Phelps**

Assistant Director of Programs  
Publishing and Applied Liberal Arts,  
poet, and educator

# The Courage to Learn

## Building Risk-Ready Classrooms Where Students Thrive

Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, James Marshall,  
and Taryl Hansen

Learning inherently involves risk—but not the reckless kind. Every successful student understands that taking academic risks is key to mastering new ideas, asking bold questions, and exploring unfamiliar concepts. Without risk-taking, opportunities for growth, creativity, and achievement shrink. But how can educators inspire students to take these crucial risks when fear of failure often stands in the way?

That's where *The Courage to Learn* comes in. This transformative book redefines academic risk-taking—not as blind leaps or recklessness, but as a process grounded in psychological safety. Rooted in educational research and enriched with actionable strategies, it's an essential guide for teachers aiming to normalize academic risk-taking. With a clear, practical framework for fostering student growth through supportive, challenge-oriented learning environments, the book features:

- **Academic Risk-Taking Profiles:** Identify and engage students across the risk spectrum, from cautious learners to bold adventurers.
- **The Remembered Success Effect:** Learn how to shift success-to-failure ratios to promote future growth and confidence.
- **Chunked Learning Strategies:** Build student confidence step by step with incremental, achievable milestones.
- **Practical Solutions:** Tackle resistance to learning with strategies for addressing obstacles, whether it's "I don't get it" or "I don't like it."

*The Courage to Learn* equips educators with the tools to cultivate academic courage in their classrooms. By reframing challenges, normalizing failure, and fostering resilience, teachers can encourage students to embrace growth and aim for new heights. When students feel safe to take risks, they don't just learn—they flourish.