Contents

Prelude	ix
Acknowledgments	xiii
About the Author	xv
My First Year	1
Part 1. First Weeks of School	4
Best Practice #1: Make Day 1 About the Students	6
Best Practice #2: Get Respect—and Fast	10
Best Practice #3: Set Your Routine and Structures Early—and Keep Them!	15
Best Practice #4: Speak Student	18
Best Practice #5: Create Purposeful Seating Charts	22
Part 2. Forming Positive Relationships With Your Students	32
Best Practice #6: Use Your Power for Good, Not Evil	36
Best Practice #7: Let Students Make Mistakes Without Feeling Like Failures	42
Best Practice #8: Win Over the Tough Kids	45
Best Practice #9: Become a Teacher Detective	49
Best Practice #10: Spread Positivity With Your Words and Tone	55
Best Practice #11: Focus on the Positive and Create Positive Students	58

Known to Others as the "Bad Kid"	61
Best Practice #13: Reward Students	66
	00
Best Practice #14: Learn the Power of Behavior Contracts	69
Part 3. Curriculum and Instruction	82
Best Practice #15: Get Your Students Engaged: Make Learning Fun and Make It Transferable	86
Best Practice #16: Research, Read, Use	90
Best Practice #17: Pick Up the Pace	93
Best Practice #18: Use Arm's Length Voice	96
Best Practice #19: Be One or Two Steps Ahead of the Class	98
Best Practice #20: Keep Everything Contextualized and Do Projects!	102
Best Practice #21: Challenge and Support Students	106
Best Practice #22: Take Risks in Your Lessons	109
Best Practice #23: Know How to Prepare for When You Just Can't Be There	112
Best Practice #24: Use Creative Discipline	115
Best Practice #25: Vary Levels of Noise in	
the Classroom	121
Best Practice #26: Make Groupwork Work	125
Best Practice #27: Let Their Creative Juices Flow	129
Best Practice #28: Teach to Every Different Type of Learner	132
Best Practice #29: Have NO Doubts, But Be Prepared to Have (Just a Few) Lessons Flop	140

Part 4. Other Adults as Resources	144
Best Practice #30: Learn How to Win Over Parents	154
Best Practice #31: Know How to Make Coteaching Work	159
Best Practice #32: Be a Sponge	166
Best Practice #33: Find a Mentor	169
Best Practice #34: Watch and Learn	172
Best Practice #35: Instead of Talking, Listen With Your Mind	174
Best Practice #36: Be Proactive: Get and Keep Administration on Your Side	177
Part 5. Spins That Will Wow Your Students	184
Best Practice #37: Get Guest Speakers Into Your Classroom Best Practice #38: Give Students Power	188
and a Voice	193
Best Practice #39: Show Your Students You Care	196
Best Practice #40: Laugh Together and You Will Learn Together	201
Best Practice #41: Give Gifts	205
Best Practice #42: Be the Teacher They Never Had	208
Best Practice #43: Know That Kids Notice the Small Things	211
Best Practice #44: Get Students to Behave When You're Covering Classes	215
Rost Practice #45: Surprisel	210

Part 6. Keeping Yourself Sane	224
Best Practice #46: Balance Your Life	229
Best Practice #47: Know How to Handle the Difficult Parent Meetings	233
Best Practice #48: Keep it Balanced: Give and Take Equally	238
Best Practice #49: Be Responsive and Prioritize	240
Best Practice #50: Be Mindful With Your Coworkers	243
Widening Our Lens: A Global Perspective on Classroom Management	246
Handy To-Go List of 50 Teaching Dos and Don'ts	251
The End—of the Beginning	254
Real Advice: Teacher to Teacher	256
Bibliography and References	262
Index	264