

# RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry  
not yet

by Veronica Hotton

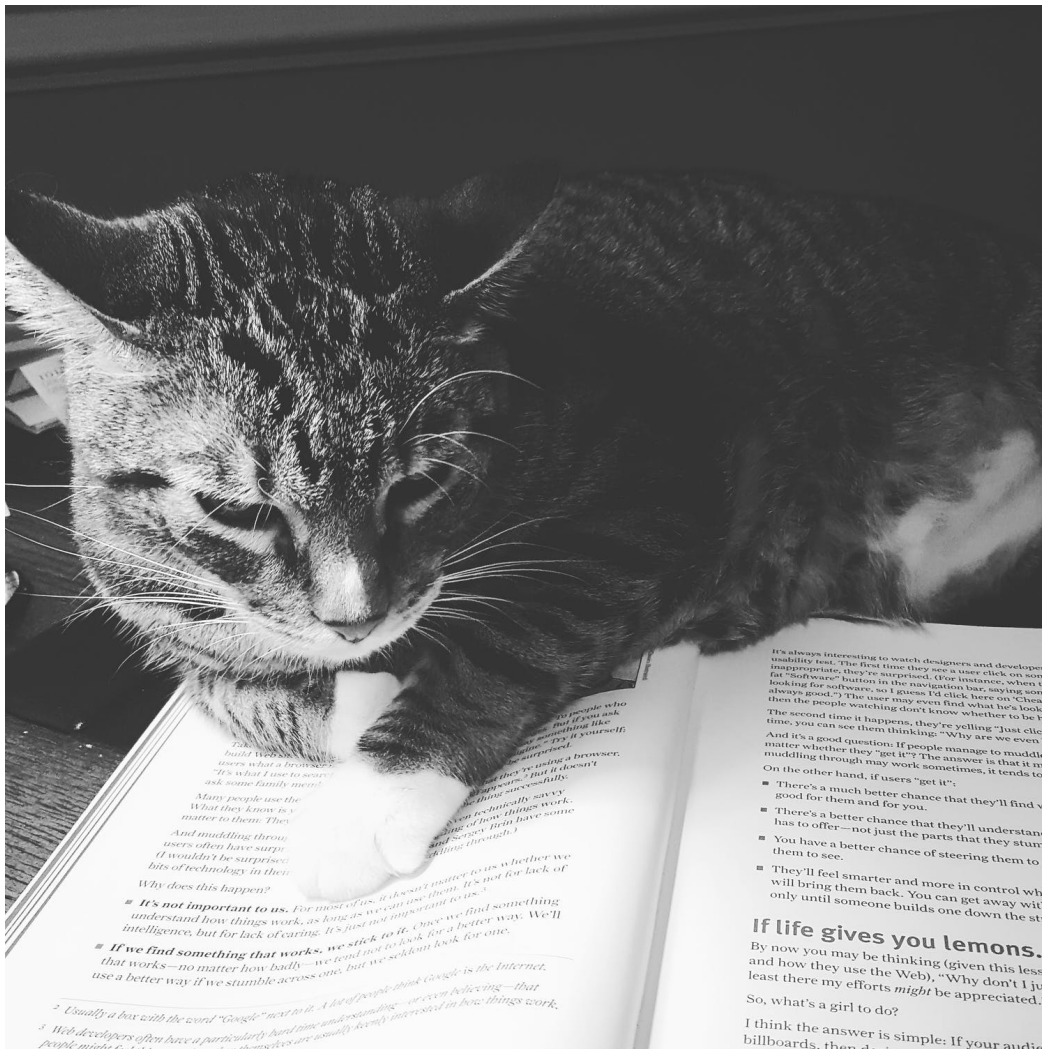


IMAGE BY HEATHER MCKEEN

## not yet

I have not graded your paper yet  
not yet

piles grow  
they get moved around the room  
moved to different rooms  
carried in backpacks or bags  
dragged in and out of cars  
moved to folder  
to binder  
to desk  
to table  
to lap, then back to folder

I have not graded your paper yet  
because it is time to create the next assignment, yes, already time  
I have not graded your paper yet  
because that assignment was forgotten, yes, forgotten

the piles need to be alphabetized first ✓  
the late papers need to be rounded up ✓  
the piles need to be complete ✓  
the papers need to be re/stapled ✓✓

were we like this before or after the grading rut?  
I am sad  
they overcharge you  
they underpay us  
or a messy combination  
more facts to internalize

because I am tired  
of grading  
you  
I have not graded those papers yet

I wish I had shiny-star-stickers ★  
for you  
would the piles dwindle,  
if I could gift you something  
for your quality and quantity?  
could that help me dive into those piles?

I have not graded your paper yet  
because I would rather have you read it, today

to me, to us, so we all hear it, together  
we can listen to what works, what  
needs fixin', and what can be  
    re/moved  
    re/added  
we can celebrate  
    you

I have not graded your paper yet  
because my cats are sitting on the piles  
    the folder  
        the binder  
            the table, the desk, my lap  
feline cheek drool has marked your paper  
their stapling claws and fangs have punctured your paper  
at least they were not recently in the little box  
    at least the lease only allows cats

I have not graded those papers yet  
because they are at the bottom of  
another pile I have not graded  
    no  
not yet



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