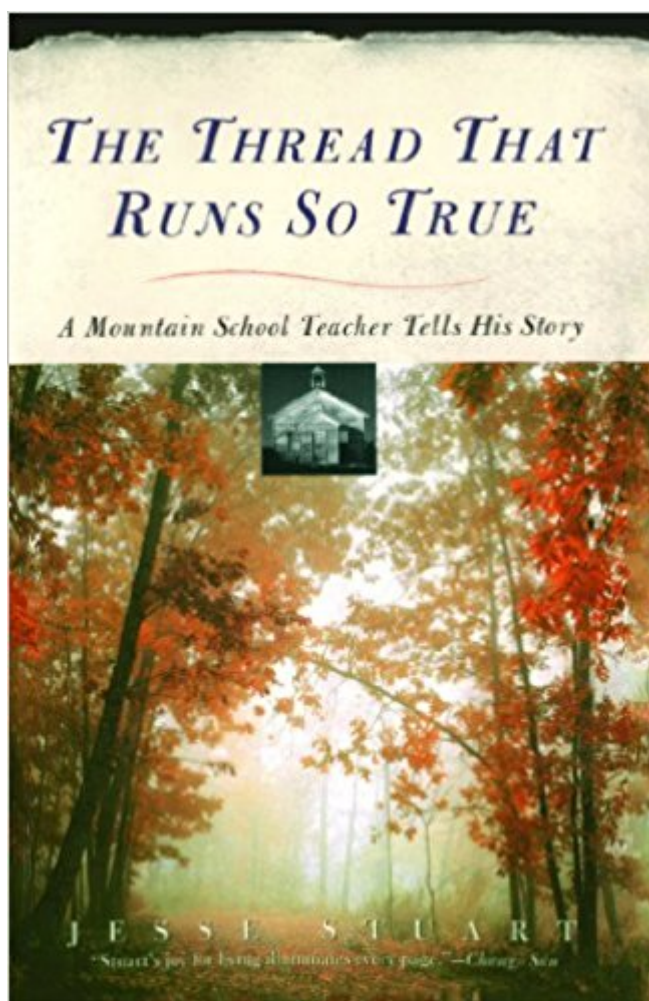


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# The Thread That Runs So True: A Mountain School Teacher Tells His Story



## Synopsis

First published in 1949, Jesse Stuart's now classic personal account of his twenty years of teaching in the mountain region of Kentucky has enchanted and inspired generations of students and teachers. With eloquence and wit, Stuart traces his twenty-year career in education, which began, when he was only seventeen years old, with teaching grades one through eight in a one-room schoolhouse. Before long Stuart was on a path that made him principal and finally superintendent of city and county schools. The road was not smooth, however, and Stuart faced many challenges, from students who were considerably older "and bigger" than he to well-meaning but distrustful parents, uncooperative administrators and, most daunting, his own fear of failure. Through it all, Stuart never lost his abiding faith in the power of education. A graceful ode to what he considered the greatest profession there is, Jesse Stuart's *The Thread That Runs So True* is timeless proof that "good teaching is forever and the teacher is immortal."

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; 1st Touchstone Ed edition (January 1, 1950)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0684719045

ISBN-13: 978-0684719047

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #346,991 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #179 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > South #216 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Educators #1004 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States

## Customer Reviews

Chicago Sun Stuart's joy for living illuminates every page. Kirkus Reviews A lively, sometimes gripping, story of endurance and dedicated perseverance. Definitely worthwhile reading. The Nation An entertaining book by a born storyteller. Harriette Arnow The New York Times Readable and entertaining...He speaks eloquently of the many injustices in educational opportunity that arise from poverty, both in the individual and the unit of government under which he lives.

Jesse Stuart worked his way through Lincoln Memorial and Vanderbilt Universities, and taught school in his native Kentucky. He lectured at various colleges and universities until 1954, when he suffered a near-fatal heart attack. After his recovery, he returned to writing, lecturing, and farming. As a specialist for the U.S. Department of State, he traveled around the world, and he served as a visiting lecturer and professor at the American University in Cairo in 1960-61. His work includes nearly thirty books, ranging from poetry to biography, autobiography, novels, and short stories. Jesse Stuart died in 1984.

An interesting story about Kentucky one-room school houses and small town school systems in the late 1940's. The author chose a way of life that he adored and motivated many others to follow in his path. My copy is the 32nd printing of the book so I believe many others have found it interesting. Having taught in small towns I can relate to some of his problems and some of his solutions, some of which would land him in jail today. I enjoyed it a lot and would have given it five stars if it had a better beginning. Once into the book it is great reading.

I first read this book when I was a freshman in high school, and fell in love with Jesse Stuart's writing. Since then I have read many of his books, and have never been disappointed. The Thread That Runs So True is a wonderful story which I've read several times over the years. It speaks of simpler times -- days I wish I could visit again. In my opinion, Jesse Stuart is one of the all time best!

The thread that connects the events in the book are clear-the transition of schools in the author's area. The idea that education should be directed by men who were on the Board solely for the power was horrendous. The fact that warring factions from different churches were calling the shots were appalling. The author's rise from one room schoolhouse to superintendent of schools was both heartwarming and indicative of the poor standards of that time. Sandra B. Taylor

It's not what you have, money, facilities, degrees, and advances of consolidated schools, it's what you do with what you do with what you have. Along with that is old time values and virtues that made us great, and not the fantasy land that we have today. Perhaps we are missing something in today's world of true relationships among other things..

This book and story takes the reader into the world of education at the grass roots rural level. From the one room school house with 20 year old students still mired in the first grade to brilliant students

from impoverished backgrounds. A terrific review and account of cultural conditions in the 1930's, from the depression to WWII. A must read for educators/teachers. Many of the methods and means used by the author will shock and surprise today's readers, but this is Kentucky in the 1930's. Imagery depicted is fantastic.

Book in excellent condition. But sorry no photos like in hardcover edition. However printed photos off Internet.

To the longtime view of the teacher as drone worker under the thumb of administrators, school board, and uninformed parents, Mr. Stuart presents an alternate view of the teacher as a classroom manager who fosters a strong teacher-student-administrator support system that responds to the needs of the student.

The book was well worth the price I paid for it. As always I'm a very satisfied customer.

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