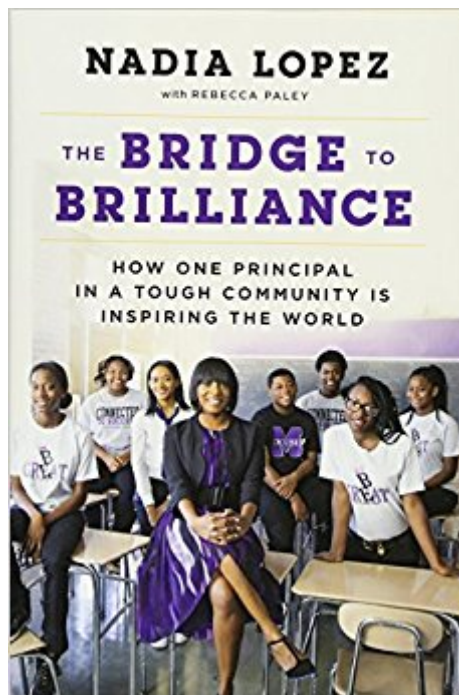




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# The Bridge To Brilliance: How One Principal In A Tough Community Is Inspiring The World



## Synopsis

Be inspired by the magnetic young principal who “stands on the front line of the fight to educate America’s children.” (Brandon Stanton, author of *Humans of New York* ) and the book that *Essence* calls “Essential reading.” In 2010, Nadia Lopez started her middle-grade public school, Mott Hall Bridges Academy, in one of America’s poorest communities, in a record heat wave and crime wave. Everything was an uphill battle to get the school approved, to recruit faculty and students, to solve a million new problems every day, from violent crime to vanishing supplies but Lopez was determined to break the downward spiral that had trapped too many inner-city children. The lessons came fast: unengaged teachers, wayward students, and the educational system itself, rarely in tune with the already disadvantaged and underprepared. Things were at a low ebb for everyone when one of her students told a photographer that his principal, “Ms. Lopez, was the person who most influenced his life. The posting on Brandon Stanton’s *Humans of New York* site was the pebble that started a lucky landslide for Lopez and her team. Lopez found herself in the national spotlight and headed for a meeting with President Obama, as well as the beneficiary of a million-dollar campaign for the school, to fund her next dream: a field trip for her students to visit another school—Harvard. *The Bridge to Brilliance* is a book filled with common sense and caring that will carry her message to communities and classrooms far from Brooklyn. As she says, modestly, “There are hundreds of Ms. Lopezes around this country doing good work for kids. This honors all of them.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The story of Mott Hall Bridges Academy is the story of American education. Nadia Lopez stands on the front line of the fight to educate America’s children.” •Brandon Stanton, author of Humans of New York“Essential...the key to academic excellence begins with an open mind.” •Essence“A valuable depiction of what it takes for principals and teachers to reach children in the most troubled communities...will give readers even more reasons to ask what we as a society are doing to support the thousands of educators who labor in obscurity, trying to help the nation’s most vulnerable children.” •Dale Russakoff, The New York Times Book Review“Nadia Lopez’s efforts to support the needs of children in one of the most under-resourced communities in the country should serve as a reminder to all that what’s required to open pathways to excellence are educators who unlock potential. We should all be committed to living Nadia’s legacy. She founded a school to strengthen a community and our country . . . what will you do?” •David J. Johns, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans“For anyone in education who thinks a student is beyond learning, Lopez’s story will prove them wrong. The narrative demonstrates a clear progression from a woman’s dream for a model school to that reality, which has made a huge impact in its neighborhood and across the country.” •Kirkus Reviews

Nadia Lopez is the founding principal of Mott Hall Bridges Academy, a model for quality education that includes a safe, nurturing, and innovative learning environment. Since being featured on Humans of New York in February of 2015, she has been profiled in countless national media outlets, has been invited to speak at Harvard, and was invited to the White House, and delivered a TED Talk on the “Revolution of Education.” She is the recipient of the 2015 Black Girls Rock Change Agent Award and the 2015 Barnard College Medal of Distinction Awardee.

A really thought-provoking book about the struggles that families have to get their children educated in "under-served" communities, and about the truly heroic energy Nadia Lopez puts into her work!

Recently purchased the book and hats off to Ms. Lopez for her commitment to student excellence. Her approach should be model for all schools in New York City. Some how the local politicians (aka

New York City Council) are not accountable for student performance but they should be a stakeholder. Case in point I live in Queens District 29 and was recently shocked of students at PS132 and IS59 (former alumnus) poor performance on state level exams. The students are capable of learning with the support of teachers, principal, community board and politicians. I suspect there are issues with the lesson plans when compared to District 28 (e.g., Bayside). Something is wrong and perhaps Ms. Lopez approach is the answer because her strategy is proven.

I got this book as a gift for my boyfriend who currently works in a school and he really enjoyed it! I saw Ms. Lopez's story on Humans of New York, which led me to buying her book.

Fantastic!!! Highly recommend all teachers read this book!!

Awesome read!! One of the best books that I have read in a while. The kids in this neighborhood need all the help and support that they can get. Ms. Lopez and her staff are the support system that every child needs in and outside of the school. As a parent, I appreciate everything that they all do for my scholar. I am a proud parent of a Mott Hall Bridges Academy scholar!!

Absolute must read for anyone who hopes to be inspired by one woman's quest and perseverance to make a difference where it matters most. Please read, this book is absolutely astounding. Very well written and jaw-droppingly raw. Ms. Lopez, you are a true inspiration. Thank you!

An amazing book that has revitalized my dreams and hopes as an educator. It reminds me why I choose teaching and why I can't strive to give anything less than an amazing, quality educational experience to my students when they sit in my class.

Incredibly inspirational. Thanks

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