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TITLE: Showing up in class

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When student evaluations commend teachers for their passion, this is usually understood as praise for the individual teacher's outgoing enthusiasm. This paper suggests that the comment may also refer to a darker quality, one that is not an attribute that the teacher brings with them to the class but one that they must find within classroom relations. In this sense the comment refers to the teacher's willingness to show up to class, to address and respond to students as they are, and not as the teacher and students might like them to be; it is a recognition by students of the pedagogic importance of love, suffering and vocation. The paper draws on the work of Arendt, Buber, Gaita and Weil.