Anglo-Saxons valued education yet understood how precarious it could be, alternately bolstered and undermined by fear, desire, and memory. They praised their teachers in official writing, but composed and translated scenes of instruction that revealed the emotional and cognitive complexity of learning. Irina Dumitrescu explores how early medieval writers used fictional representations of education to explore the relationship between teacher and student. These texts hint at the challenges of teaching and learning: curiosity, pride, forgetfulness, inattention, and despair. Still, these difficulties are understood to be part of the dynamic process of pedagogy, not simply a sign of its failure. The book demonstrates the enduring concern of Anglo-Saxon authors with learning throughout Old English and Latin poems, hagiographies, histories, and schoolbooks.

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Abbreviations

Old English texts are abbreviated according to the Old English Short Title in the Dictionary of Old English.

ACMRS Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
ÆBC Gwara and Porter, eds., Anglo-Saxon Conversations: The Colloquies of Ælfric Bata
ASE Anglo-Saxon England
ASPR Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records
BL London, British Library
BT Bosworth and Toller, An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary
CCCC Cambridge, Corpus Christi College
CCSL Corpus Christianorum Series Latina. Turnhout: Brepols
CSEL Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
DOE Dictionary of Old English: A to H online, eds. Cameron, Amos, and Healey
EETS Early English Text Society
OS Original Series
SS Supplementary Series
EH Colgrave and Mynors, eds., Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People
GL Gneuss and Lapidge, Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts (references by serial number)
JEGP Journal of English and Germanic Philology
JMEMS Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Ker Ker, Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon (references by serial number)
MGH Monumenta Germaniae Historica
MLN Modern Language Notes
MP Modern Philology
NM Neuphilologische Mitteilungen
N&Q Notes and Queries
OEB Godden and Irvine, eds., Old English Boethius
OEME Magennis, ed., The Old English Life of St Mary of Egypt
PL Patrologia latina, ed. J.-P. Migne (Paris, 1844–64)
RES The Review of English Studies