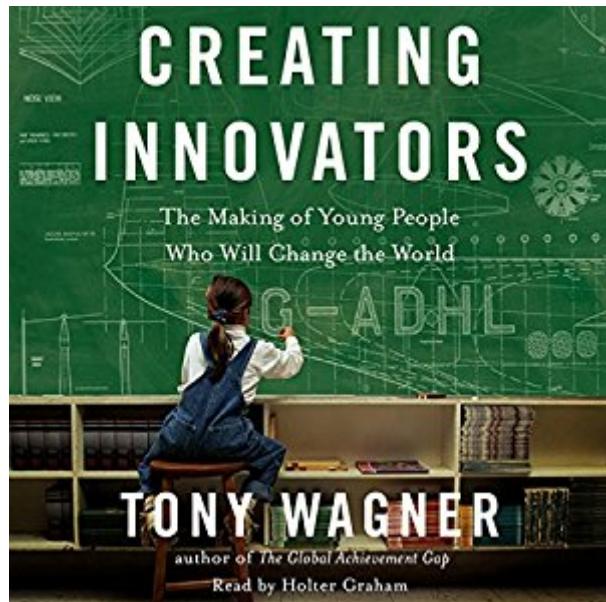


The book was found

Creating Innovators: The Making Of Young People Who Will Change The World



Synopsis

In this groundbreaking book, education expert Tony Wagner provides a powerful rationale for developing an innovation-driven economy. He explores what parents, teachers, and employers must do to develop the capacities of young people to become innovators. In profiling compelling young American innovators - such as Kirk Phelps, product manager for Apple's first iPhone, and Jodie Wu, who founded a company that builds bicycle-powered maize shellers in Tanzania - Wagner reveals how the adults in their lives nurtured their creativity and sparked their imaginations, while teaching them to learn from failures and persevere. Wagner identifies a pattern: a childhood of creative play leads to deep-seated interests, which in adolescence and adulthood blossom into a deeper purpose for career and life goals. Play, passion, and purpose: These are the forces that drive young innovators. Wagner explains how we can apply this knowledge as educators and what parents can do to compensate for poor schooling. He takes listeners into the most forward-thinking schools, colleges, and workplaces in the country, where teachers and employers are developing cultures of innovation based on collaboration, interdisciplinary problem-solving, and intrinsic motivation. The result is a timely, provocative, and inspiring manifesto that will change how we look at our schools and workplaces, and provide us with a road map for creating the change-makers of tomorrow.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sadly, too many buyers of books about education or parenting or business are seeking some kind of silver bullet--a recipe for how to transform schools or raise better children or improve one's business. I think some of the reviews of this book reflect a disappointment in not finding quick fixes in its pages. Creating Innovators offers fascinating and invaluable insights, but alas, no recipes. Unlike many popular authors today, Wagner writes with great clarity but respects the complexity of the topics he explores. His case studies of young innovators offer rich, in-depth portraits of young men and women from a variety of backgrounds who are innovating in different ways. His interviews with their parents and the teachers whom they told him had made the greatest difference in their lives are powerful and moving. But perhaps Wagner's greater contribution is to the broader dialogue of what it means to an educated adult in the 21st century. Building on his outstanding work in *The Global Achievement Gap*, Wagner goes beyond the now common calls for so-called 21st century skills (a term he never used) to explain how every young person must develop the capacities to solve problems creatively--to innovate. His profiles offer insights into what parents, teachers, mentors can do to nurture and develop these capacities in young people. Finally, Wagner contributes an invaluable perspective to the raging debate about the value of a college education. His description of the contradiction between the culture of schooling versus the culture of learning that develops the dispositions of an innovator is a unique insight--which is made all the richer by his exploration of some radically new approaches to teaching and learning in college.

In general, I enjoy books about the cutting edge in education and Professor Wagner's book is no different. He takes us around the country to various schools that are doing some very interesting things in the classroom and introduces us to some great students. From the point of view of an educator and parent, it is wonderful to know what is going on out there. As is usual with these kinds of books, however, I am not as convinced as Wagner that every child will benefit by a change to his system of schools. Wagner is convinced that knowledge is less important to the modern student than the ability to innovate and he deplores the fact that so few children are given an environment to grow as innovators. Certainly, the ability to innovate is important and students who have that strength should be given the opportunity to grow it. On the other hand, I don't see convincing evidence that every child would shine in the environments Wagner describes any more than every child shines in the schools we have now. Unfortunately, most of us are not able to envision a school system that actually encompasses everyone's strengths, no matter what they happen to be and, until that kind of vision takes hold of our culture (and our universities), it is very difficult to make effective changes. In some sense, this book models the pointlessness of innovation for

innovationâ™s sake. I took the time to download the app and watched all the videos that were interwoven into the text. These videos (most of which were less than 2 minutes and consisted of interviews with the people in the book) are mainly repetitive of what was already said in the text and added little to the argument, unless you are the type of person who needs to have a face connected to a quote.

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