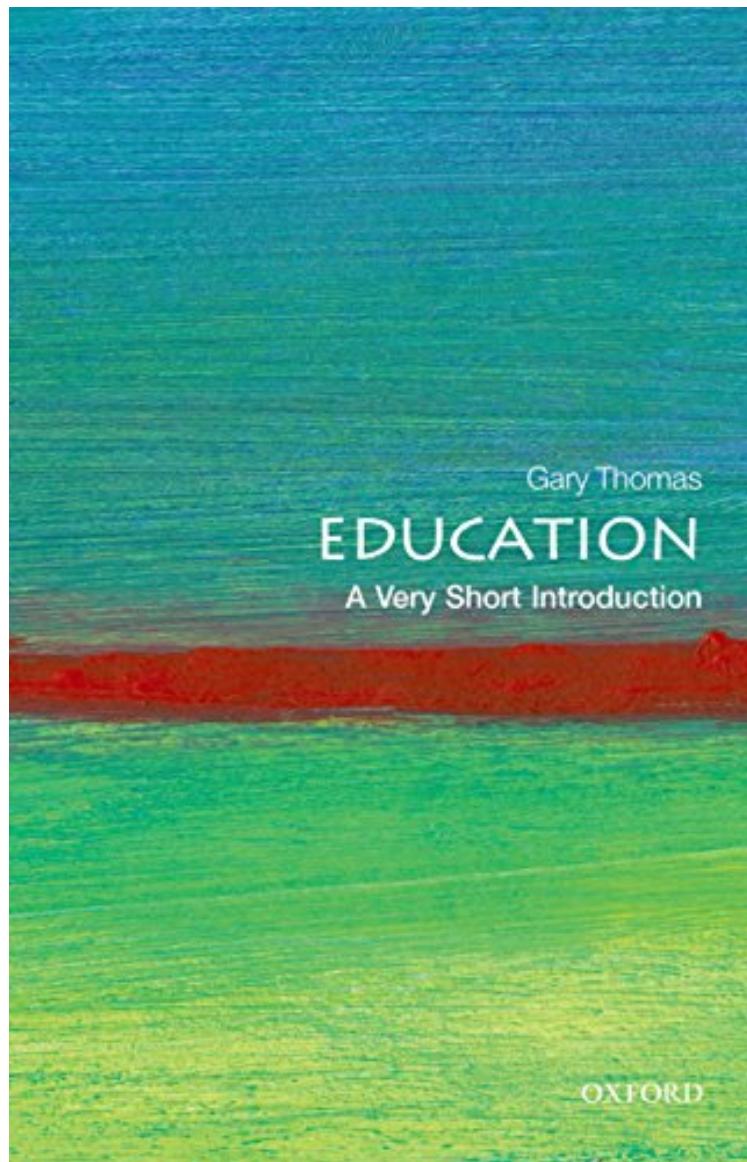


(Mobile pdf) Education: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Education: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Von Gary Thomas

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Von Gary Thomas : Education: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Education: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Education: Food for thoughtVon AnkaAccording to the cover text, this book explores the big questions that have divided educators for centuries: what should be taught, and how should we teach it?Gary Thomas chosen approach is

to focus on the big ideas in education, rather than plain facts and details. A brief history gives an overview over the development of schools from the elitist greek and roman schools, to the knowledge craze of the Renaissance, the consecutive reformation and reformulation of education ideals in the wake of the philosophy of empiricism and the development of natural sciences, and the education projects from the industrialisation to today. In the intellectual history of education, he identifies two antipoles throughout as contrasting methods: teaching facts versus the encouragement of thinking (p. 17). These two methods, or educational paradigms, are identified as formal or progressive education. While a lot of the arguments concerning education can be analysed in this framework, Thomas acknowledges himself that the labels break down as the discussion about these issues becomes more nuanced (p. 26). These categories don't become completely useless at least as analytic tools of educational ideas, but in reality there might also be considerable exchange of pedagogic impulses. Thomas discusses external influences and constraints on the implementation of education in a societal context (the neoliberal turn). The final chapter Schools out! covers schools and schooling at large. Thomas presents several analyses and arguments on alternative education including those of Ivan Illich, Alexander S. Neill, Alison Wolf, and Everett Reimer. Different criticisms all scrutinise the present day schooling systems as ineffective - here, one might want to agree at first sight (probably based on own experiences!): Thomas stresses that learning is commonly not an organised process, but happens casually and in dependence of pupils interests and motivation (learning for a purpose). At least, he takes the burden off the teachers which are but one part in the educational puzzle. In fact, the continuous introduction of new technologies and the promises of better or more efficient teaching have only underlined the importance of "real" teachers interacting with pupils over the last century. The main problem is the basis of standardisation, and society and politics are to be more alert not to confuse teaching with learning. In particular so since other concepts succeeded in extra-school learning (e.g. Paulo Freire and his pedagogys of the oppressed). However, this chapter on schools and schooling appears far too short and can't really evaluate the necessities and possible changes in and of the school system, especially in highly modernised countries. Given their riches in education and knowledge, science education and its impact on formal and progressive education appears to be treated marginally. Obviously, it can be done with a lot of spoon-feed facts (p. 100) and might be pushed for economic reasons in the curriculum but science can and should also merge learned background knowledge with project-based experimentation and independent analysis. It might help to provide a jump across the formal-progressive divide. Here is also a meeting point between schools and universities, which allows work shops involving pupils, teachers, and researchers. Overall, the book is written in a highly engaging style, insightful, opinionated, critical, full of facts, case studies and ideas, making it a very rewarding read. You will want to argue with the author about some positions, and I can't imagine everyone to agree with the chosen approach for an introduction. However, it definitely leaves one stimulated to reflect about education, and why we find it the way it is, and re-evaluate how we want it to be.

Kurzbeschreibung From the schools of ancient times to the present day, Gary Thomas explores how and why education has evolved as it has. Examining education worldwide, he explains the way schools work, noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world. Delving into some of the big questions, Thomas explores the history of education in this Very Short Introduction. Considering various styles such as progressive versus formal, he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists, including Piaget and Vygotsky. Looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching, he considers the ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching, and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students. He finishes by considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century. **ABOUT THE SERIES:** The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable. **Pressestimmen** "Thomas manages to cover all the bases...without devolving into encyclopedic minutia. Highly recommended." --B. Justice of Rutgers University, Choice **Kurzbeschreibung** From the schools of ancient times to the present day, Gary Thomas explores how and why education has evolved as it has. Examining education worldwide, he explains the way schools work, noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world. Delving into some of the big questions, Thomas explores the history of education in this Very Short Introduction. Considering various styles such as progressive versus formal, he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists, including Piaget and Vygotsky. Looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching, he considers the ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching, and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students. He finishes by considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century. **ABOUT THE SERIES:** The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make

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