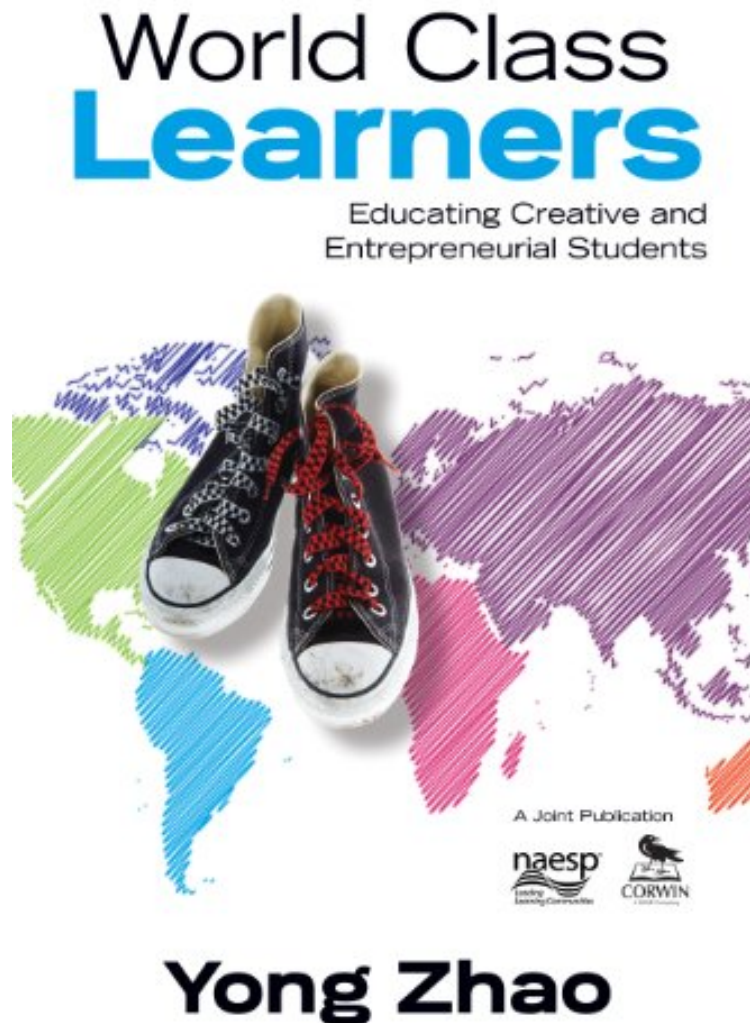


(Free read ebook) World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students

World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students

Yong Zhao

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Yong Zhao : World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An eye-opening and validating readBy pamYong Zhao's research is energizing to read -- for me, an educator -- because he challenges the current groupthink about the importance of test scores as the single most important indicator that our schools are on the right track. I appreciate the global perspective

he brings to the discussion about what it means to be well educated. I found this book exhilarating. Watch him on Youtube to get a taste of his ideas. This would be a good book to read in a professional group or to share with over-anxious parents. I wish policy-makers would read it and broaden their perspectives!14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. coffeechug book reviewsBy A. MaurerLet me start by stating that this book pretty felt like the ideas were taken from my head and Yong Zhao just brought clarity and data to support the ideas.This book is a must read!As the American Education System works towards spending billions of dollars in creating a Common Core curriculum, other countries are trying to emulate what America schools once were. I am not stating that the school system we had was perfect, but it allowed students to pursue their interests and there is a reason that we have more creative awards, innovators, Nobel Laureates, and patents than any other country. Forcing everyone to teach the same way is going to cause schools to eliminate those opportunities for students to explore their passions.This book discusses what America is doing wrong and questions why we want to be like a China education system that can have students pass tests, but cannot innovate? China is striving to be us and vice versa. We are in a pivotal moment right now in education and this book shows what can be if we continue down this path.It is imperative that teachers have freedom within their classroom. When a teacher can no longer teach a project because other teachers in the subject field don't want to and teachers cannot add their own flare to their subject, then students lose out. This mindset is settling in not only with policy makers, but communities as well.Parents want more work. More homework, harder classes, more tests, etc. At what point do we say enough! A child should not have to attend school for 6-7 hours a day and then go home to hours of homework each night. It is very important for kids to have time to explore, play, sports, art, music, drama, etc. These avenues allow students to find out who they are and what they want to pursue.Yong Zhao, the author of this book lays out what he thinks needs to happen to allow students to think like entrepreneurs and prepare for the world. The way things are going right now we are not allowing for this to happen.This is a well written book. He supports all ideas with several facts, figures, and examples. Being a book review I won't go into all my thoughts and ideas with each section of this book, but I will tell you that this a necessary read for anyone involved in education and wondering what the future holds for us. If we don't start to rethink how we teach and how schools operate we are going to find ourselves falling behind. Creating a national curriculum driven by people who have not stepped foot in a classroom is not the answer. Teachers need to be willing to step up and take risks to challenge their students. As Rabindranath Tagore stated, "Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time."It is time for teachers to change and adapt how we teach. It is time for administrators to step up to the challenge and change the system. And it is time for policy makers to get out of the way and quit acting like they know what they are talking about. If our students don't prepare to be a global citizen and learn to seek out problems and learn to solve them, then the future could be different from life today! Read this book and find out more about how we can change things to better prepare our students for their future.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A critically important argument for educational reformBy Steve R. BaskinThis book is a clear and powerful description of the shortcomings of the current educational system. Dr Zhao clearly explains how ill-suited a test-driven system using 20th Century curriculum is for the modern world. We need to cultivate entrepreneurial skills and enthusiasm, yet traditional education tends to do the exact opposite. Anyone interested in creating long-term educational advantage for our children should read this book.

Prepare your students for the globalized world!To succeed in the global economy, students need to function as entrepreneurs: resourceful, flexible and creative. Researcher and Professor Yong Zhao unlocks the secrets to cultivating independent thinkers who are willing and able to create jobs and contribute positively to the globalized society. This book shows how teachers, administrators and even parents can: Understand the entrepreneurial spirit and harness itFoster student autonomy and leadershipChampion inventive learners with necessary resourcesDevelop global partners and resources

"In this important book, Yong Zhao demonstrates persuasively that the race for higher test scores is harmful to our society. It contradicts the need to develop our young people's creativity and entrepreneurship. If we ignore Yong Zhao's warning, we risk hurtling back to an industrial model of standardization and conformity. What is needed most now, he reminds us, is freedom to think, freedom to invent, and freedom to differ from bureaucratically devised norms." (Diane Ravitch)"Professor Yong Zhao's latest book, *World Class Learners*, is unusual, wide-ranging, provocative, and amusing. Dr. Zhao himself exemplifies the creative entrepreneur, someone who roams across disciplines to synthesize new ideas based on insight and research. Having spent his youth in China and his adulthood in the U. S. gives him a clear-eyed view of the strengths and weaknesses of schooling in both the East and the West. His account of the unexpected consequences of well-intentioned policy should be read by every policymaker, from education secretaries to school board members. Teachers and parents will also benefit from his views on educating children to be creative, independent thinkers." (Milton Chen, Former Executive Director, The George Lucas Education Foundation 2012-06-28)"Yong Zhao dares to challenge prevailing "standardized" education policies and practices in favor of more individualized, holistic approaches that tap into and enhance the talents of every child enabling all

children to be better prepared to live productively in a globalized society. Zhao's book portrays a new global entrepreneurship paradigm for teaching and learning in our schools and imparts a sense of urgency and call to action for education policy makers everywhere to shift away from standardization to globalization for the sake of our children and the well-being of our nation. Zhao's thoughtful and thought-provoking vision will inspire educators and his global entrepreneurship paradigm is bound to intrigue, inform and enhance their practice. The National Association of Elementary School Principals applauds Yong Zhao's vision and encourages educators to draw upon his new global entrepreneurship education paradigm for inspiration and practical ideas for engaging students and enhancing their talents and exceptionalism." (Gail Connelly, Executive Director 2012-07-03)"Zhao zeroes in on entrepreneurship and the sorts of open-ended learning that produce creative problem-solvers most likely to succeed in the competitive world of business. In spite of the obstacles our mania for test scores have put in the way, Zhao shows us how educators and students are succeeding on this path." (Anthony Cody, Writer)"Professor Zhao has provided a different and compelling view of what education can and should be if we want to remain the global, creative, entrepreneurial, innovation nation going forward. Policy makers at every level need to read and act on the ideas in this book as though our future depends on it. Because it does." (Tom Watkins, Former Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction)"Yong Zhao has provided the most compelling case I have read that many (mainly Western) nations are on the wrong track in educational reform. The unrelenting focus on high-stakes testing, the narrowing of the curriculum, and the continuing faith in outdated models of schooling ensure that they are short-changing students and weakening their societies and economies. The good news in this book is that there are outliers of preferred practice in schools around the world. The challenge is to provide schools with the autonomy to innovate with an entrepreneurial spirit and to resist the pressures for more centralized command-and-control approaches to change in schools." (Brian Caldwell, Professor, University of Melbourne)"The 21st Century Education movement requires us to be more intentional and purposeful about the outcomes that will help our students become 21st century citizens and be successful in the new global economy. In his latest book, *World Class Learners*, Yong Zhao has forcefully challenged us to focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. Zhao has established himself as one of the most compelling voices in 21st century education. He is not an ed reformer, trying to improve our performance within the old system. He is truly an ed transformer, trying to articulate the outcomes that will matter most to our 21st century students. Yong Zhao continues to 'lead the way'." (Ken Kay, CEO of EdLeader21, Founding President of Partnership for 21st Century Skills, co-author, *The Leader's Guide to 21st Century Education: 7 Steps for Schools and Districts* 2012-05-17)"Many of us who study innovation struggle with ways to domesticate the unruly habits of creative entrepreneurs into a useful framework for education and learning. Dr. Yong Zhao's *World Class Learners* brings the lessons of global entrepreneurs home to the 21st century classroom, at a moment when those lessons are sorely needed. *World Class Learners* is a timely and important contribution to our understanding of the relationship between practical skills, creativity and technology in preparing young people for an entrepreneurial world." (Rob Salkowitz, Author 2012-05-17)"Rarely do I read a well written and engaging book that offers a research-based critique of current practices in education with a workable prescription for the future. *World Class Learners* is such a book. Moreover, its implications for the field of teacher preparation are profound, and the ideas presented in the book should become the basis for significant discussion within our field. As Zhao points out, the world is changing so rapidly, and the context that our schools and institutions of higher education confront is so dynamic that we must embrace the need for change and make adjustments or potentially lose the franchise for preparing the next generation of educators. This book should be required for all those interested in education, but most significantly, those preparing for careers in the field." (Rick Ginsberg, Dean of the School of Education 2012-06-14)"*World Class Learners* contains a clear call for teacher preparation to begin producing teachers capable of thinking differently about the purposes of schooling. If we ignore our opportunity to do so, our future is, at best, uncertain." 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This is a fresh and important contribution to the global conversation on education reform, a compelling call for systematically generalizing the opportunities to develop creativity that are at the root of child centered education." (Fernando M. Reimers, Ford Foundation Professor of International Education 2012-07-06)"As the global economy becomes ever more connected, increasing attention is paid to preparing students to be competitive in the international marketplace. Zhao (Univ. of Oregon) sketches out a plan that will help create independent thinkers who are able to engage in the creative thinking process necessary to foster job creation and positive contributions to society. In ten chapters, Zhao explores a variety of themes that buttress his call for change, including the inadequacy of a common curriculum, the need for entrepreneurs, ways to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit, the achievement gap

versus the entrepreneurial gap, how China encourages independent thought, ways to develop autonomy and leadership, product-oriented learning, and ways of bringing the world to campus. Providing a host of charts and graphs, Zhao suggests that US schools need to concentrate on ways to build independence and creativity in students instead of emphasizing improving standardized test scores. Examples of schools that encourage creativity and entrepreneurship are included. A tremendous complement to Michael Fullan's *Stratosphere* (2012) or Donald Treffinger, Scott Isaken, and Brian Dorval's *Creative Problem Solving* (2000). Summing up: Highly recommended. General readers; upper-division undergraduate students and above." (CHOICE) "In this important book, Yong Zhao demonstrates persuasively that the race for higher test scores is harmful to our society. It contradicts the need to develop our young people's creativity and entrepreneurship. 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