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The Homework Myth

Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing

ALFIE KOHN

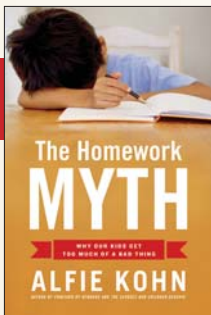
“Should be required reading for every teacher, principal, and school district head in the country.” —*Boston Globe*

In *The Homework Myth*, nationally known educator and expert Alfie Kohn systematically examines the usual defenses of homework—that it promotes higher achievement, “reinforces” learning, and teaches study skills and responsibility. None of these assumptions, he shows, actually passes the test of research, logic, or experience. Kohn’s incisive analysis reveals how a mistrust of children, a set of misconceptions about learning, and a misguided focus on competitiveness have all left our kids with less free time and our families with more conflict. Pointing to parents who have fought back—and schools that have proved educational excellence is possible without homework—Kohn shows how we can rethink what happens during and after school in order to recapture children’s love of learning.

DA CAPO LIFELONG BOOKS, August 2007, 256 pages • 978-0-7382-1111-4, \$14.95, paperback

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"[T]his is a stinging jeremiad against the assignment of homework, which the author, a prominent educator, convincingly argues is a wasteful, unimaginative, and pedagogically bankrupt practice that initiates kids into a soul-sucking rat race long before their time."

— *Atlantic Monthly*

ALFIE KOHN is the author of ten previous books, including *Punished by Rewards*, *The Schools Our Children Deserve*, and *Unconditional Parenting*. Kohn's criticisms of competition and rewards have been widely discussed and debated, and he has been described in *Time* magazine as "perhaps the country's most outspoken critic of education's fixation on grades [and] test scores." He lives with his family in the Boston area.

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