

Abby Wegner

Dr. Pfeifer

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Whitmire, Richard, and Michelle Rhee. *Why Boys Fail: Saving Our Sons from an Educational System That's Leaving Them behind*. New York: American Management Association, 2010. Print.

The book *Why Boys Fail* by Richard Whitmire, produces a compelling argument to support the poor academic performances provided by boys in school. Educators used to be concerned with the performance of young girls in school. For too long they were not meeting the expectations put upon them by the school. Therefore, teaching styles changed to accommodate their needs. Soon the girls began to thrive, so much so that they were surpassing the boys. Young boys then began to fall through the cracks and were never able to catch up to the girls through high school and college. Throughout the book Whitmire presents a compelling to the readers why boys are failing and what educators and parents can do to help the problem.

Whitmire argues that the main reason boys are failing is because communication has been excelling rapidly in school. English and literacy skills that used to be taught in first grade are now being taught in preschool and kindergarten. Boys develop communication skills much later than girls do. Because of this, boys are not able to keep up with the demands brought on by school. The argument here is not that the curriculum should be brought down to a simpler level,

rather that the learning styles of males must now be met and information presented in a many ways.

There are many reasons why boys may be set back farther than girls. Medical issues are believed to contribute to their academic struggles. Autism and Attention Deficit Disorder is on the rise amongst young boys. This automatically creates learning difficulties for them. Yet, at the same time these are being over diagnosed. Most people would argue that race and economics make a difference. However, blue collar white boys have had the most rapid decrease in test scores. Lastly, teacher expectations have lowered for their boys.

One of the solutions that Whitmire proposes is creating an environment that is highly structured. Students, especially young boys, crave structure and therefore will thrive in that type of environment. Through this, the students will be held to high expectations and will strive to meet them. They also need the one on one attention during reading classes so that they can keep up with the accelerated demands. Teachers need to accommodate the needs of all their students. This book serves as an aid to help teachers accommodate the male portion of their students for success.

Works Cited

Whitmire, Richard, and Michelle Rhee. *Why Boys Fail: Saving Our Sons from an Educational System That's Leaving Them behind*. New York: American Management Association, 2010.

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