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# Creative Schools: The Grassroots Revolution That's Transforming Education



**Creative Schools**

Ken Robinson  
and Lou Aronica



## Synopsis

Ken Robinson is one of the world's most influential voices in education, and his 2006 TED Talk on the subject is the most viewed in the organization's history. Now, the internationally recognized leader on creativity and human potential focuses on one of the most critical issues of our time: how to transform the nation's troubled educational system. At a time when standardized testing businesses are raking in huge profits, when many schools are struggling, and students and educators everywhere are suffering under the strain, Robinson points the way forward. He argues for an end to our outmoded industrial educational system and proposes a highly personalized, organic approach that draws on today's unprecedented technological and professional resources to engage all students, develop their love of learning, and enable them to face the real challenges of the 21st century. Filled with anecdotes, case histories, and groundbreaking research, *Creative Schools* will inspire teachers, parents, and policy makers alike to rethink the real nature and purpose of education.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sir Kenneth Robinson (aka "Sir Ken") is a well known English Speaker, professor, and International advisor on Education. He is currently professor emeritus of education at the University of Warwick. He is also known for speaking at the global set of conferences known as TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) - his talk "How schools kill creativity " was fascinating. However, he has moved to the USA and has now put out this fascinating and far reaching book on how to transform this nation's troubled educational system. As he said "Some people tell me they enjoy my talks

online but are frustrated that I don't say what they can do to change the system. I have three responses. The first is, "It was an eighteen-minute talk; give me a break." The second is, "If you're really interested in what I think, I've published various other books, reports, and strategies on all of this, which you may find helpful." The third response is this book. "Sir Ken decries the huge profits standardized testing businesses are making at the expense of actually learning something. He suggests an "end to our outmoded industrial educational system" but suggests "a highly personalized, organic approach that draws on today's unprecedented technological and professional resources to engage all students, develop their love of learning, and enable them to face the real challenges of the twenty-first century." Sir Ken has a witty and engaging style that draws you along and makes his ideas seem easy (but I suspect they won't be). Don't mistake his ideas for a general condemnation of the US Schools system- he points out many things our schools are doing right.

Like almost every educator in the world, in some shape or form we have either read, watched, or listened to the ideas of Ken Robinson. I always find his work fascinating (I don't always agree) and he always provides much food for thought. It was without much thought that I had to read his newest book *Creative Schools*. Below you are going to get my thoughts about certain pieces of the book. This is not a review so much as a reflection. To be honest, you should read this book. If for nothing else to make you think about your assumptions. You might agree with him and you might firmly disagree. The basis of a high quality read for me is when I read passages over and over, take copious notes, rethink my own thoughts, and do further research. This book led me to do all of these things. I believe it is an important read for anyone involved in education to think about how you are going to use your voice and agency to make the changes necessary to transform schools. Please read it with hopes of inspiring a movement. There...that is my review. Now to my ideas "In terms of teaching, the standards movement favors direct instruction of factual information and skills and whole-class teaching rather than group activities. It is skeptical about creativity, personal expression, and nonverbal, non mathematical modes of work and of learning by discovery and imaginative play, even in preschool." When I first read this I had to stop. I disagreed at first until I stopped and really read what he was saying.

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