

Book Review Introduction

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My husband bought me a new camera for my birthday. It has an automatic zoom feature that reminds me of how important it is for we educators to systematically zoom in on our profession to find out what is current in the literature about students and learning and to zoom out to examine teaching practices and structures that support good teaching. The reviews that follow start with brain research and end with an analysis of rewards systems for exceptional teachers.

Eric Jensen's latest book, *Enriching the Brain*, is a reader-friendly translation of neuroscience, according to reviewer Cynthia C. Coleman. In this work, the reader will find illustrations that serve as a graphic framework to facilitate the understanding of the enrichment of the brain's capacity. Coleman recommends the book because of its overview of the "fixed brain myth" and, more importantly, the four brain principles that serve as a protocol for educators and parents to capitalize on children's potential.

Steve Turley's review of *You Haven't Taught Until They Have Learned: John Wooden's Teaching Principles and Practices* by Swen Nator and Ronald Gallimore honors iconic basketball coach John Wooden as a member of the teaching community. Not only was Wooden credited for an unmatched run of ten national championships, but he is recognized by player Swen Nator and psychologist Ronald Gallimore for his teaching pedagogy on the court and in the locker room. We are told by Turley we can expect to see connections between Wooden's ways of teaching and what teacher candidates learn in their preservice programs. An important lesson you will learn from reading this book, according to Turley, is that great teachers embrace fundamental beliefs and principles that are applicable across disciplines and generations.

James S. Cantor introduces us to a book that on the surface appeals to children but, when read differently, has the capacity to attract adult readership. He demonstrates how *The Girl With The Brown Crayon: How Children Use Stories To Shape Their Lives* by Vivian Gussin Paley offers teacher candidates alternative perspectives and possibilities in the classroom. Using these insights, coupled with equity pedagogy, Cantor asks his university students, “What are the costs and benefits when schooling is organized in ways that minimize the amount of control students and teachers have on classroom activities?”—a question that Cantor recommends will facilitate the development of critical perspectives among all learners.

“One of the most interesting problems to be solved in education today is how to acknowledge those who do the best work in teaching” reports Mildred Murray-Ward in her review of *Awards and Recognition for Exceptional Teachers: K-12 and Community College* written by Hans A. Andrews. The intent of the book is to highlight the importance of award and recognition programs so that K-12 and community college leaders might find ways to reward excellent teaching and to motivate teachers to improve their craft. The book could be useful as an orientation to the field of reward systems. Murray-Ward skillfully contextualizes her comprehensive review of this work with her references to the literature about quality teaching and other reward systems such as merit pay.