

# Trinity Valley School Reading List

*I want my children to understand the world, but not just because the world is fascinating and the human mind is curious. I want them to understand it so that they will be positioned to make it a better place.*

Howard Gardner

\* Books added this year

---

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills** - Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel

Trilling and Fadel tell why and how the global landscape for learning is reshaping itself, and what this global transformation, often called the “21st century skills movement”, may bring to a school near you. This book illustrates the skills needed to survive and thrive in a complex and connected world.

---

## **The Age of the Unthinkable** - Joshua Ramo

In the age of uncertainty, nothing is more important for really thriving than diversity: of ideas, of background, even of motive.

---

## **The Art of Learning: An Inner Journey to Optimal Performance** - Josh Waitzkin

Waitzkin believes that achievement, even at the championship level, is a function of a lifestyle that fuels a creative, resilient growth process.

---

## **A Whole New Mind** - Daniel Pink

Drawing on research from around the world, Pink outlines the six fundamentally human abilities that are absolute essentials for professional success and personal fulfillment – and reveals how to master them.

---

## **Better** - Atul Gawande

Atul Gawande explores how doctors strive to close the gap between best intentions and best performance in the face of obstacles that sometimes seem insurmountable.

---

## **Bit Literacy** - Mark Hurst

Bit Literacy gives practical information to understand and control key aspects of the digital age.

---

**Blink** - Malcolm Gladwell

It's a book about rapid cognition, about the kind of thinking that happens in a blink of an eye.

---

**Born to be Good** - Dacher Keltner

A new examination of the surprising origins of human goodness

---

**\*Brain Rules – John Medina**

Most of us have no idea what's really going on inside our heads. Yet brain scientists have uncovered details every business leader, parent, and teacher should know.

How do we learn? What exactly do sleep and stress do to our brains? Why is multi-tasking a myth? What can science tell us about raising smart, happy children?

Brain Rules are things we know for sure, and John Medina explains what we might do with that knowledge.

---

**Collapse** - Jared Diamond

The end of all societies have environmental issues at the root.

---

**The Coming Jobs War** - Jim Clifton

The chairman of the Gallup Poll provides the results of the first world survey: Everyone in the world wants a *good* job. In a provocative book for business and government leaders, Gallup Chairman Jim Clifton describes how this undeniable fact will affect all leadership decisions as countries wage war to produce the best jobs.

---

**The Compassionate Instinct** - Dacher Keltner, Jason March, and Jeremy Adam Smith EDs

Leading scientists, psychologists and science writers offer a collection of personal stories and empirical research that reflect on and explore the perspective-changing science of human goodness.

---

**Cosmopolitanism** - Kwame Appiah

Kwame asks us to look how similar humans are on earth, not to only focus on how different we are.

---

**Courage: The Backbone of Leadership** - Gus Lee

The book carries a clear message about the power and the obligation for leaders to do the right thing the right way.

**Cradle to Cradle (Sustainability)** - William McDonough

William McDonough's book is a manifesto calling for the transformation of human industry through ecologically intelligent design.

---

**Dignity** - Donna Hicks

This is one of the best leadership books I have read in the past 20 years. Donna Hicks draws on her extensive experience in international conflict resolution and on insights from evolutionary biology, psychology, and neuroscience to explain the importance of dignity. Leaders must be able to recognize dignity violations, how to respond when we are not treated with dignity, and how dignity can restore a broken relationship. I strongly recommend this book for parents and teachers.

---

**Disrupting Class** - Clayton Christensen and Michael Horn

This book takes one of the most important issues of our time – education – and applies Christensen’s now famous theories of “disruptive” change using a wide range of real-life examples.

---

**Drive** - Daniel Pink

The secret to high performance and satisfaction in today’s world is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world. Drawing on four decades of scientific research on human motivation, Pink exposes the mismatch between what science knows and what business does – and how that affects every aspect of our lives.

---

**The Empathetic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness in a World in Crises** - Jeremy Rifkin

No matter how much we put our minds to the task of meeting the challenges of a rapidly globalizing world, the human race seems to continually come up short, unable to muster the collective mental resources to truly “think globally and act locally.” Rifkin shows that this disconnect between our vision for the world and our ability to realize that vision lies in the current state of human consciousness.

---

**First Break All the Rules** - Buckingham and Coffman

The best book on management (in my opinion). Examples of how great managers share one common trait: They do not hesitate to break virtually every rule held sacred by conventional wisdom.

---

**Five Minds for the Future** - Howard Gardner

Howard Gardner defines the cognitive abilities that will command a premium in the years ahead.

---

**Freakonomics** - Levitt and Dubner

It discusses how to make informed decisions. One chapter talks about what it takes to be great parents - surprise - it takes a thoughtful person.

---

**The Global Achievement Gap** - Tony Wagner

Examines problems of the American educational system and offers solutions for preparing students to compete and work in a global economy.

---

**Good Influence: Teaching the Wisdom of Adulthood** - Dan Heischman

This book reveals the responsibilities of adulthood. During a time where many parents and teachers want to look and act as young as their children, this courageous book illustrates that adults are different than young people. The book is well worth the read for anyone who is trying to be an effective mentor.

---

**Guns, Germs, and Steel** - Jared Diamond

Diamond argues that the gaps in power and technology between human societies originate in environmental differences.

---

**The Happiness Hypothesis** - Jonathan Haidt

It provides insight into some of the most important questions in life--Why are we here? What kind of life should we lead? What paths lead to happiness?

---

**\*The Heart of Change** - John Kotter

The authors explain how individual and organizational react and process change. Kotter and Cohen argue that change initiatives often fail because leaders rely heavily on data and analysis to promote buy-in from their teams without promoting ownership and dialogue.

---

**Hot, Flat, and Crowded** - Thomas Friedman

Friedman brings a fresh and provocative outlook to another pressing issue: the interlinked crises of our environment and the rising competition for energy. He claims that the nation state that can create clean, cheap energy will be leaders in the global economy.

---

**How Children Succeed** - Paul Tough

Paul Tough reverses three decades of thinking about what creates successful children, solving the mysteries of why some succeed and others fail – and of how to move individual children toward their full potential for success.

---

**Immunity to Change** – Robert Kegan and Lisa Laskow Lahey

This book addresses how our individual habits and mindsets— along with the collective norms and beliefs in our organizations—combine to create an overwhelming immunity to change. The authors go on to show us what we can do to overcome these forces.

---

**Intelligence and How to Get It** - Richard Nisbett

Overall, Nisbett makes a powerful argument that HARD WORK significantly affects intelligence and that culture, family, schooling and other environmental factors greatly affect hard work and thus can determine intelligence.

---

**Insanely Simple** - Ken Segall

Ken Segall worked with Steve Jobs for 17 years in advertising. Each chapter in this book explains a part of Apple's philosophy. Very simply, he provides an entertaining perspective on how Apple typically gets it right, citing Jobs's insistence on straight talking, foolproof designs and memorable slogans, and his aversion to overstaffed meetings and big-company culture.

---

**Leaders Make the Future** - Bob Johansen

Provides research-based forecasts, case studies, and analysis to introduce the necessary leadership skills to succeed in an uncertain world.

---

**Leadership on the Line** - Ron Heifetz and Marty Linsky

Heifetz believes that to lead is to live dangerously because when leadership counts, when you lead people through difficult change, you challenge what people hold dear -- their daily habits, tools, loyalties, and ways of thinking -- with more to offer perhaps than a possibility. People push back when you disturb the personal and institution equilibrium they know. This book is a “must” read for anyone in a leadership role.

---

**The Lightness of Being** - Frank Wilczek

A lively, playful, and inventive "tour de force" as well as "a colorful and masterful treatment of recent developments in fundamental physics."

---

**Little Bets** – Peter Sims

Most creative professionals and entrepreneurs have one trait in common: They make a series of little bets about what *might* be a good direction, and then learn from minor failures and small wins that allow them to arrive at extraordinary outcomes.

---

**Look Me In The Eye: My Life with Asperger's** - John Elder Robison

It is a moving, darkly funny story of growing up with Asperger's. Robison takes you inside the head of a boy whom teachers and other adults regarded incorrectly as "defective."

---

**Mindset** - Carol Dweck

Dweck explains why it's not just our abilities and talent that bring us success – but whether we approach them with a fixed or growth mindset. Dweck reveals what all great parents, teachers, CEO's, and athletes already know: how a simple idea about the brain can create a love of learning and a resilience that is the basis of great accomplishment in every area.

---

**Mindsight** - Daniel J. Siegel

This book was recommended to me by Donna Hicks – the author of Dignity – another book on this reading list. Mindsight is about the kind of focused attention that allows us to see the internal workings of our own minds. It helps us get ourselves off of the autopilot of ingrained behaviors and habitual responses. It lets us “name and tame” the emotions we are experiencing, rather than being overwhelmed by them.

---

**Multiple Intelligences** - Howard Gardner

Linguistic, Logical-mathematical, Musical, Bodily-kinesthetic, Spatial, Interpersonal and Intrapersonal. Intelligence is not one dimensional.

---

**Now You See It** - Cathy Davidson

Cathy explains the disadvantage of focusing on particular tasks. Each time we focus, we fail to observe concurrent important events. Among much else, we need to build schools and workplaces that match the demands of our multitasking brains. That means emphasizing "nonlinear thinking," "social networks" and "crowdsourcing."

---

**Nurture Shock** - Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman

The central premise of this book is that many of modern society's strategies for nurturing children are in fact backfiring because key concepts in science have been overlooked.

---

**Our Underachieving Colleges** - Derek Bok

Although most students make gains in many important respects, they improve much less than they should in such important areas as writing, critical thinking, quantitative skills, and moral reasoning.

---

**Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative** - Sir Ken Robinson

Throughout the world, companies and organizations are trying to compete in a world of economic and technological change that is moving faster than ever. They urgently need people who are creative, innovative and flexible. Too often they can't find them. Why is this? What's the real problem – and what should be done about it? Out of Our Minds answers these three vital questions for all organizations.

---

**Outliers** - Malcolm Gladwell

Gladwell examines the factors that contribute to high levels of success.

---

**Peak** - Chip Conley

Conley explains how to understand the motivations of employees, customers, bosses, and investors, and use that understanding to foster better relationships and build an enduring and positive culture.

---

**The Pixar Touch: The Making of a Company** - David Price

Uncovers an enormous amount of detail about Pixar's history and evolution from a technology company to an animation company. A great business book.

---

**Punished by Rewards** - Alfie Kohn

The basic strategy we use to raising children, teaching students, and managing workers can be summarized in six words: Do this and you get that. We dangle goodies (from candy bars to sales commissions) in front of people in much the same way we train the family pet. Drawing on a wealth of psychological research, Alfie Kohn points the way to a more successful strategy based on working with people instead of doing things to them.

---

**Schools that Learn** - Peter Senge

If we want to change schools, it is unlikely to happen until we understand more deeply the core assumptions on which the industrial-age school is based.

---

**Showing Up for Life** - Bill Gates, Sr.

I love this book. Gates reveals the combined power of men and women who "show up" for the people they love and the causes they believe in. He shares how he has seen the power of the public to take on and surmount great challenges and he believes our society works better when people think less about "me and mine" and more about "us and ours".

---

**\*Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action – Simon Sinek**

In his recent book *Start with Why*, author Simon Sinek reveals that every organization expresses WHAT it does. The difference between good and great organizations, according to Sinek, is that great organizations tell us WHY they exist. Steve Jobs focused on the WHY. He did so because he believed that starting with WHY enables people and organizations to inspire greatness and achieve remarkable things.

---

**Teaching for Tomorrow - Ted McCain**

Ted McCain gives readers clear, detailed, and readable strategies in order to engage students in active learning.

The Singularity is an era in which our intelligence will become increasingly nonbiological and trillions of times more powerful than it is today—the dawning of a new civilization that will enable us to transcend our biological limitations and amplify our creativity.

---

**The Starfish and the Spider - Ori Brafmand and Rod Beckstrom**

They discuss cooperative networks--such as the Apaches prior to the early 1900s and Al Qaeda today--and how they benefit from operating without a central hierarchy.

---

**The Talent Code - Daniel Coyle**

If you want to succeed - work hard! Talent is not born, it is grown.

---

**The Tipping Point - Malcolm Gladwell**

The book seeks to explain and describe the "mysterious" sociological changes that mark everyday life.

---

**The World is Flat - Thomas Friedman**

This is Friedman's account of the great changes taking place in our time, as swift advances in technology and communications put people all over the globe in touch as never before – creating an explosion of wealth in India and China, and challenging the rest of us to run even faster just to stay in place.

---

**Thinking, Fast and Slow – Daniel Kahneman**

This book explains the two systems that drive the way we think. System 1 is fast, intuitive, and emotional; System 2 is slower, more deliberative, and more logical.

---



**Tribal Leadership** - Warren Bennis

Within every company there are tribes, often several, consisting of 20 to 150 people who know each other and work together. But while everyone tribes, the culture of each tribe is different, as is its effectiveness. Improving a tribe's culture—and its chances for greater success—requires a tribal leader who not only understands the tribe but can leverage its collective assets to build a greater team.

---

**The Way We're Working Isn't Working** - Tony Schwartz

Today, the furious activity to accomplish more with less exacts a series of silent costs: less capacity for focused attention, less time for any given task, and less opportunity to think reflectively and long term.

---

**What the Best College Teachers Do** - Ken Bain

It is a practical, wise, and intelligent discussion of the best college teaching.

---

**Why Don't Students Like School** - Daniel T. Willingham

He uses a question and answer format at the beginning of each chapter to illustrate a cognitive principle, and then expands on the subject, ending each chapter with implications for the classroom.

---

**Why Meditate** - Matthieu Ricard

It reveals the concepts of meditation without spiritual overtones. Meditation has been shown to enhance brain functioning, bodily health, and work performance. After reading, you will ask why schools are not teaching meditation or reflection.

---

**TEDtalks:** TED talks are presentations from the annual TED Conference established to share "ideas worth spreading."

[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html)

Sir Ken Robinson makes an entertaining and profoundly moving case for creating an education system that nurtures (rather than undermines) creativity.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/sir\\_ken\\_robinson\\_bring\\_on\\_the\\_revolution.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/sir_ken_robinson_bring_on_the_revolution.html)

In this poignant, funny follow-up to his fabled 2006 talk, Sir Ken Robinson makes the case for a radical shift from standardized schools to personalized learning -- creating conditions where kids' natural talents can flourish.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/eli\\_pariser\\_beware\\_online\\_filter\\_bubbles.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/eli_pariser_beware_online_filter_bubbles.html)

As web companies strive to tailor their services (including news and search results) to our personal tastes, there's a dangerous unintended consequence: We get trapped in a "filter bubble" and don't get exposed to information that could challenge or broaden our worldview. Eli Pariser argues powerfully that this will ultimately prove to be bad for us and bad for democracy

[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/matt\\_ridley\\_when\\_ideas\\_have\\_sex.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/matt_ridley_when_ideas_have_sex.html)

At TEDGlobal 2010, author Matt Ridley shows how, throughout history, the engine of human progress has been the meeting and mating of ideas to make new ideas. It's not important how clever individuals are, he says; what really matters is how smart the collective brain is.

## Blogs

### \*Brian Pickings

My favorite blog today is by Maria Popova who is the editor of Brain Pickings <http://www.brainpickings.org/> an online miscellaneous collection of information. As she puts it, "I am attempting to create a 21st-century framework to share information." She exhaustively assembles a grab bag of scientific curiosities, forgotten photographs, snippets of old love letters, and notes creative ideas. Maria claims her output is a "human-powered discovery engine for interestingness." I look forward to Sunday morning when it is posted.

John Dewey [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Dewey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dewey) claimed that "thinking" is the ability to connect ideas which at "first glance" do not seem to be related. Maria helps us think

---

### \*Harvard Business Review Blog

This blog is priceless <http://blogs.hbr.org/>. It covers leadership, management, finance, marketing, ..... I look forward to the updates every morning.