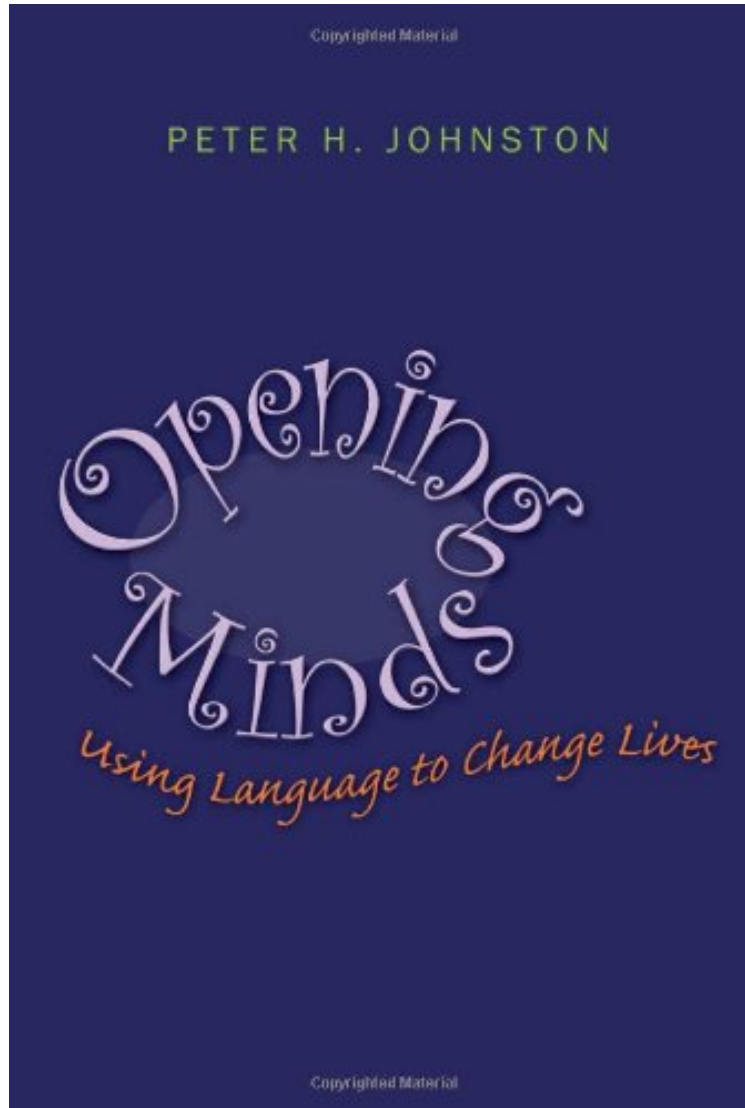


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Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives

Peter H. Johnston

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#28700 in Books imusti 2012-01-10 2012-01-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .45 x 6.00l, .57
#File Name: 1571108165160 pagesStenhouse Publishers | File size: 55.Mb

Peter H. Johnston : Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is a book every teacher, administrator, and LEGISLATOR should read!By Karen S Kidder-BarrettI used the ideas in just the first four chapters of this book with my many students during the last month of school, and couldn't believe the difference it made! Everyone who works with PEOPLE should read this book. It's the real way we should be teaching and dealing with children if we REALLY want to be a country that can compete in the world. I wish all those working in educaiton and those making laws about

education would be required to read this book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I loved this bookBy CustomerI loved this book, very mind-opening. I feel like I should have read Choice Words first. The end of the book became a little redundant which made me wonder how different this book is from his first. However, I do not regret having this insight personally (how I view and treat myself and those around me), as an educator and as a parent.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerHelpful for use in my classroom.

Introducing a spelling test to a student by saying, 'Let's see how many words you know,' is different from saying, 'Let's see how many words you know already.' It is only one word, but the already suggests that any words the child knows are ahead of expectation and, most important, that there is nothing permanent about what is known and not known. Peter JohnstonSometimes a single word changes everything. In his groundbreaking book Choice Words, Peter Johnston demonstrated how the things teachers say (and don't say) have surprising consequences for the literate lives of students. Now, in Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives, Peter shows how the words teachers choose affect the worlds students inhabit in the classroom, and ultimately their futures. He explains how to engage children with more productive talk and to create classrooms that support not only students' intellectual development, but their development as human beings.Grounded in research, Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives shows how words can shape students' learning, their sense of self, and their social, emotional and moral development. Make no mistake: words have the power to open minds or close them.

By combining rich descriptions of classroom interactions with research to back up his claims, Johnston writes convincingly and paints lasting images of effective ways to engender agency (the will to act), positive self-theories, and constructive perspectives to change lives within our classrooms. --Language ArtsJohnston's thinking is transformative. He has created a layered effect of ideas and theories that form a solid path to becoming a master in the apprenticeship of children into humanity. --MiddleWebIt is brilliant. Just as in Choice Words, Johnston packs a ton into a small book. --A Year of Reading blogAbout the AuthorPeter Johnston grew up and taught elementary school in New Zealand before coming to the United States to earn his Ph.D. at the Center for the Study of Reading at the University of Illinois. At the time his plans did not include staying in the United States let alone getting married and raising a family. He now lives in Albany, New York, with his wife Tina, and a cat left behind by one of his (three) children returning briefly from college.Peter's research and writing spring from his fascination with children's learning and, no less, teachers' teaching. Perversely, he believes that education is not simply about delivering information to children. He thinks it is more about building a just, caring society and that doing so will not detract from our more obviously pragmatic educational goals. In his most recent Stenhouse book, Choice Words, he uses his fascination with the relationship between language and learning to show how this works moment to moment in the classroom.A professor at the State University of New York at Albany, Peter and his colleagues Becky Rogers and Cheryl Dozier recently researched their own teaching of beginning teachers in Critical Literacy/Critical Teaching: Tools for Preparing Responsive Teachers. Knowing Literacy, his most recent book on assessment, arose from his interest in the ways assessment teaching and learning are linked. His research on assessment has given him reason to be skeptical of high-stakes testing because of its effects on teaching and learning.When asked to describe himself as a writer, he says that he "binges." While not recommended, this approach has resulted in some eight books and about fifty research articles, along with occasional awards from professional organizations. Some of this, of course, is accounted for by age. The departure of his youngest daughter into a teacher education program, along with his recent election to the Reading Hall of Fame, asserts his "old fart" status.Beyond his family, research, soccer, singing, and humor sustain him. Failing that, a glass of chardonnay helps.