

Exclusive Q&A with author Esther Wojcicki

"Room to Read actively engages teachers and parents as essential partners in the fight to keep students' learning on track. People all over the world have the same goal for our children - to lead a better life - and Room to Read is making education opportunities more equitable so that kids everywhere can learn and develop."

Meet Esther Wojcicki, a leading American educator, journalist and author of "How to Raise Successful People," and Room to Read Author Advocate.

Author
Advocate



**Esther
Wojcicki**

Q: What inspired you to write "How to Raise Successful People"?

A: So many people were asking me what I taught my daughters so they became so and so I thought that I would write a book instead of repeating myself so many times. I also got the same question from parents and other teachers--what are you doing in your classes that attracts so many kids to sign up? The funny answer is "free pizza on Fridays" but that wasn't true. The answer is in my book T.R.I.C.K. It is the same thing I did with my daughters.

My number one goal for my book is to help all parents be more effective and stress less about their kids. The power of TRICK really works as evidenced by my thousands of students and my three daughters.

Q: How have books helped expand your view of the world?

A: It is an honor to be connected to so many people all over the world.

I realize that we all have the same goals for our children: "to lead a better life," and all parents are trying to achieve that goal for their kids. I didn't always know how to put into words what I was thinking or feeling. Books have shown me how to do that in such a way that I can make sense of my life's experiences to help others on their journey.

Q: What is your hope for the future of education?

A: I hope education opportunities will be more equitable and that kids all over the world will have an opportunity to learn and to develop their potential. Education has the power to teach collaboration, kindness and empathy. We all need to work together to save our planet.

Q: What words of encouragement would you share with young learners around the world? What words of advice would you share with teachers?

A: There is the famous story, "The Hare and the Tortoise" that I read many times to my daughters.

We should remember that the turtle won the race because he was consistent and persistent. When life doesn't go the way you expected, don't give up -- persist and you can achieve your goals. Teachers are the most important people in the world. They impact the future like no other profession. They can help empower kids by giving them more control of their learning and trusting them more, even in small ways. I suggest 20% of the time, kids collaborate and pursue their interests in the school day using tech. This gives teachers 20% more time to plan, collaborate, and work individually with students and makes learning exciting and more creative.

Q: What's a book you read and loved recently?

A: I am reading Barack Obama's book "A Promised Land." I find it inspirational because he has a great story. Also, my parents were immigrants from Russia and they saw America as a promised land. I hope we can celebrate our diversity in the coming year!

Like this interview?

Share your thoughts on social media with the hashtag #RtRBookClub