

Book Study #230 *The Smartest Kids in the World And How They Got There*, by Amanda Ripley

You have the opportunity to earn more than 3 CEUs when you take the SORLA book–study class. To earn the additional CEUs, you will need to both read the book and also complete an assignment BEFORE coming to SORLA.

Facilitator: Jodi Prchal

Lakeville, Tuesday, June 18, 12:30-3:30
Assignment to earn a total of 10 CEUs

Before you come to our book study, please purchase or borrow *The Smartest Kids in the World and how they got that way* by Amanda Ripley.. After each chapter, reflect on the following discussion questions. Please choose your favorite way to record your thinking about the discussion questions listed below and print a copy to submit on the day of our class. These questions will serve as the foundation of our discussion and activities.

Prologue:What does the graph on page 3 tell you about education? How does the author feel about the graph? What do you personally think?

Chapter 1: Explain the PISA test and what did it tell us about the education of various countries?

Chapter 2: How does a school you are familiar with compare to Sallisaw, Oklahoma? What did they have going for them? What could be better?

Chapter 3: Describe Eric's education in Korea. What was similar to Minnesota? Different?

Chapter 4: Describe Tom's educational experience in the United States and in Poland. What differences did he notice in math? What was Minnesota doing differently?

Chapter 5: Describe Kim's experience in Finland. What was being done differently in terms of education in Finland?

Chapter 6: What parenting differences did Eric find in Korea compared to the US in general?

Chapter 7: Describe the Polish education system. How do you feel about tracking?

Chapter 8: Describe the psychological side of what Kim was feeling and noticing during her Finnish education.

Chapter 9: Describe Andrew Kim's teaching style.

Chapter 10: What takeaways did the students have upon returning home? What are your final thoughts about the similarities and differences of the world educational systems? What areas could be improved upon? How?