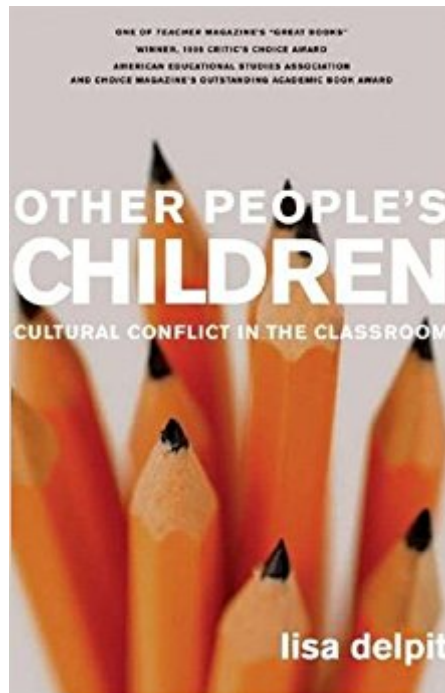




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# Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict In The Classroom



## Synopsis

Winner of an American Educational Studies Association Critics' Choice Award and Choice Magazine's Outstanding Academic Book Award, and voted one of Teacher Magazine's "great books," *Other People's Children* has sold over 150,000 copies since its original hardcover publication. This anniversary paperback edition features a new introduction by Delpit as well as new framing essays by Herbert Kohl and Charles Payne. In a radical analysis of contemporary classrooms, MacArthur Award-winning author Lisa Delpit develops ideas about ways teachers can be better "cultural transmitters" in the classroom, where prejudice, stereotypes, and cultural assumptions breed ineffective education. Delpit suggests that many academic problems attributed to children of color are actually the result of miscommunication, as primarily white teachers and "other people's children" struggle with the imbalance of power and the dynamics plaguing our system. A new classic among educators, *Other People's Children* is a must-read for teachers, administrators, and parents striving to improve the quality of America's education system.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A godsend . . . honest and fair, yet visionary and firm." —Quarterly Black Review

"Phenomenal. . . . [This book] overcomes fear and speaks of truths, truths that otherwise have no voice." —The San Francisco Review of Books "Here, finally, is multiculturalism with a human face." —Teacher Magazine "Provides an important, yet typically avoided, discussion of how

power imbalances in the larger U.S. society reverberate in classrooms." —Harvard Educational Review

Lisa Delpit is an Eminent Scholar and Executive Director of the Center for Urban Education and Innovation at Florida International University in Miami, where she lives. Her work is dedicated to providing excellent education for marginalized communities in the United States and abroad. Herb Kohl is a recipient of the National Book Award and the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. He was the founder and first director of the Teachers and Writers Collaborative in New York City and established the PEN West Center in San Francisco, where he lives. He is the author of more than forty books, including the bestselling *36 Children* and the classic *I Won't Learn from You* (The New Press).

I am enjoying reading this book. It has good information that is supported by real life experiences. My only complaint is that something happened to my package. I was happy that it was replaced for free and that I had the foresight to order this book before I needed it. I received my purchase about five days after it was supposed to arrive.

In her book, *Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom*, Lisa Delpit provides readers with evidence that cultural issues are still very much present in schools today. She discusses hot button issues such as race, gender, social class, and other prejudices within the educational system. Lisa Delpit uses first hand evidence to support her claims. In the beginning of the book she explains how she felt when considering the way she spoke compared to how she was expected to speak. She states that upon returning to school an African American boy asked her why she was trying to speak "white." This situation could easily be turned around and a teacher could chastise a student for speaking the way he or she was taught at home, but what is noticeably not correct English. This is obviously still a hot issue today. Should teachers forcefully correct a student's bad grammar, or accept it as part of their culture. Because these lines are so thin it's hard to decide which is the best course of action. This book helps readers explore these type situations and gives them ideas as to better handle them. *Other People's Children* is a great tool in the educators arsenal. Lisa Delpit sheds light on what it means to be an educator of diverse learners thus this book should be widely read. It helps show how stereotypes can be hurtful not only to the person stereotyped against, but also to the learning process of that particular person. If more people understood diversity in the classroom perhaps graduation rates would be higher than they are.

Great, interesting, and juts what I needed!! got this book as a class requirement, and although have not read it completely yet, it is very interesting thus far. Relevant info, clearly stated arguments, and a solid fact base makes this required reading relevant for me. Relevant, interesting read!

I got this for a class. Interesting read. It has a lot of good points in it.

This book allows the reader to see how assumptions and even well meaning intentions in education can harm students of diversity. This book opens an important discussion for all educators.

I must say it exceeded my expectations. I was looking for confirmation of some issues I had in mind and the book more than confirmed them.

We recently read this book as part of my MA in Secondary Ed, and I highly recommend it. Our diverse class of aspiring public school teachers found the author's opinionated and passionate essays to be a great discussion starter, with most of us having either strong positive or negative reactions to Delpit's perspective. In particular, we liked her explanation of the importance of direct language and making expectations of the school culture explicit for kids. In a critical sense, we found she tended to generalize too much. Here are a few examples of things we found interesting: White teachers ask "Where do you think the scissors go?" and black kids think, man, how did she get to be a teacher, she doesn't even know where the scissors go! Whereas, according to Delpit, a black teacher might say "Put the scissors back in the drawer and sit down." White teachers at a school in Native Alaska complain about parents not making their kids go to school. Native Alaskan parents, whose culture values children's authority, respond that if their children don't want to go to school then the school must be a place where the children do not feel welcome. Teachers are often compared to lawyers and doctors, when in fact a better comparison is with preachers, who need to respond to and inspire their congregations.

This book challenges the belief systems/structures held by white dominance and varying social classes in American urban education. GREAT READ!!!

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