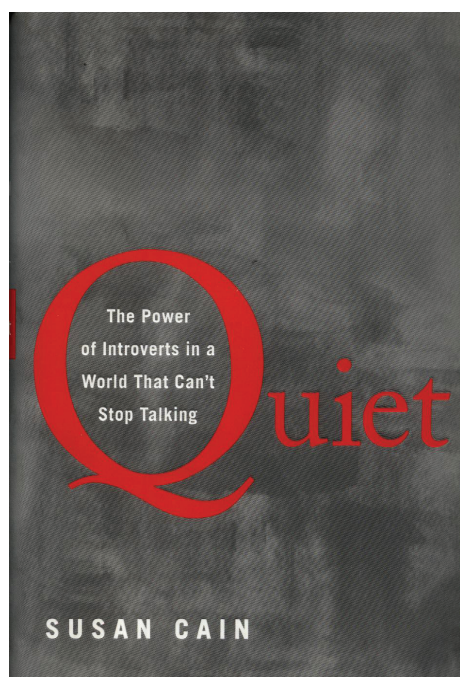


Professional Resources

Opposites attract

THE BOOKS REVIEWED SHOW YOU THE FLIP SIDE OF CURRENT BELIEFS PREVALENT IN EDUCATION AND SOCIETY AT LARGE



Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking

Susan Cain

2012; ISBN 978-0-307-35214-9 or ISBN 978-0-307-45220-7

Suitable for students, parents, administrators, elementary and secondary teachers, English Language Learner (ELL) teachers.

Much more than mere research on introverts and shyness, *Quiet* is a highly readable and refreshing study which runs counter to popularly-held beliefs about personality and current trends in education. Author Susan Cain strongly supports her points of view with many examples personally observed in classrooms across North America, in addition to documented psychological research.

One of the most surprising findings Cain reveals is that group work in both the classroom and workplace doesn't actually work. Cain explains that, "performance gets worse as group size increases: groups of nine generate fewer and poorer ideas compared to groups of six, which do worse than groups of four. Including research from the organizational psychologist Adrian

Furnham, the author suggests that "if you have talented and motivated people, they should be encouraged to work alone when creativity or efficiency is the highest priority."

Cain makes the point that introversion is not something to be cured. Introverts form one third to one half of the population and this means that we probably have more introverts in our classes than we realize. Introverted students' talents and passions do not necessarily fit into the mainstream and these students need differentiated instruction and independent projects to thrive. Cain writes, "In many fields, it's impossible to gain mastery without knowing how to work on one's own. Have your extroverted students take a page from their introverted peers' playbooks. Teach all kids to work independently."

Honours graduate of Princeton and Harvard Law School, corporate lawyer and teacher of negotiation skills, Susan Cain is a writer about introversion and shyness with works published in the *New York Times* and on PsychologyToday.com.