



Readicide: How Schools Are Killing Reading and What You Can Do About It

Kelly Gallagher

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Read-i-cide-n: The systematic killing of the love of reading, often exacerbated by the inane, mind-numbing practices found in schools. Reading is dying in our schools. Educators are familiar with many of the factors that have contributed to the decline poverty, second-language issues, and the ever-expanding choices of electronic entertainment. In this provocative new book, Kelly Gallagher suggests, however, that it is time to recognize a new and significant contributor to the death of reading: our schools.

In *Readicide*, Kelly argues that American schools are actively (though unwittingly) furthering the decline of reading. Specifically, he contends that the standard instructional practices used in most schools are killing reading by:

- valuing the development of test-takers over the development of lifelong readers;
- mandating breadth over depth in instruction;
- requiring students to read difficult texts without proper instructional support;
- insisting that students focus solely on academic texts;
- drowning great books with sticky notes, double-entry journals, and marginalia;
- ignoring the importance of developing recreational reading; and
- losing sight of authentic instruction in the shadow of political pressures.

Kelly doesn't settle for only identifying the problems. *Readicide* provides teachers, literacy coaches, and administrators with specific steps to reverse the downward spiral in reading steps that will help prevent the loss of another generation of readers.

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