

amazing grace by jonathan kozol

summary

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary offers an insightful exploration into the lives of children and families living in the South Bronx, one of the poorest urban areas in the United States. This comprehensive article provides a summary of Jonathan Kozol's powerful nonfiction book, delving into the main themes, key characters, and the social issues addressed within the work. Readers will gain an understanding of Kozol's observations, his critique of social policies, and the resilience of communities facing adversity. The article covers the author's background, the book's context, and its impact on educational and social reform discussions. By presenting an in-depth look at the struggles and hopes portrayed in "Amazing Grace," this summary aims to inform and engage those seeking to better comprehend urban poverty and its wider implications. Continue reading to discover a detailed overview, thematic analysis, and answers to commonly asked questions about the book.

- Background and Overview of "Amazing Grace" by Jonathan Kozol
- Main Themes and Issues Explored
- Key Individuals and Stories in the Book
- Kozol's Critique of Social and Educational Policies
- Impact and Reception of "Amazing Grace"
- Frequently Asked Questions

Background and Overview of "Amazing Grace" by Jonathan Kozol

Jonathan Kozol's "Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation" was published in 1995 and quickly became a landmark work in the study of urban poverty and education. Kozol, an acclaimed educator and author, spent several years visiting the South Bronx, New York City's poorest borough, to document the lives of children and families living in conditions of severe deprivation. Through firsthand interviews and observations, Kozol reveals the stark realities faced by residents, including poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, and inadequate access to education and healthcare.

The book serves as both a journalistic account and a social critique. Kozol's writing is deeply empathetic, focusing on the dignity and resilience of his

subjects while highlighting the injustices they endure. His narrative urges readers to confront societal neglect and consider the moral implications of inequality in America. "Amazing Grace" is not just a collection of stories; it is a call to action for reform and greater compassion.

- Published: 1995
- Author: Jonathan Kozol
- Setting: South Bronx, New York City
- Genre: Nonfiction, Social Commentary
- Focus: Urban Poverty, Education, Social Justice

Main Themes and Issues Explored

Poverty and Inequality

The central theme of "Amazing Grace" is the profound poverty experienced by families in the South Bronx. Kozol carefully documents how economic hardship shapes every aspect of life, from housing to education and public health. He uses vivid anecdotes and statistics to illustrate the disparities between the South Bronx and more affluent neighborhoods, emphasizing how systemic inequality perpetuates suffering.

Racism and Segregation

Kozol draws attention to the racial dynamics underlying urban poverty. He notes that the majority of residents in the South Bronx are African American and Latino, and he links their marginalization to broader patterns of segregation and discrimination. The book addresses how historical and institutional racism has contributed to the concentration of poverty in specific communities.

Education and Opportunity

Education is a recurring topic in "Amazing Grace." Kozol compares the underfunded, overcrowded schools in the South Bronx to those in wealthier districts, highlighting unequal resources and opportunities. Through interviews with children and educators, he exposes the barriers to academic success and the impact of poor schooling on future prospects.

Health and Environmental Hazards

Another major issue discussed is the health crisis facing residents. Kozol describes the prevalence of diseases such as asthma, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis, which are exacerbated by inadequate medical care and unsafe living conditions. He also addresses environmental hazards, including pollution and substandard housing, that pose risks to children's well-being.

Key Individuals and Stories in the Book

Children's Voices and Experiences

Throughout "Amazing Grace," Kozol shares the stories of children who display remarkable resilience despite their hardships. He presents their dreams, struggles, and insights, giving readers a glimpse into their daily lives. These personal accounts humanize the statistics and provide a powerful emotional core to the book.

Parents and Community Leaders

Kozol also profiles parents and local leaders who fight to improve conditions in their neighborhoods. He highlights their advocacy for better schools, healthcare, and housing, as well as their efforts to support one another in times of crisis. These individuals are depicted as sources of hope and strength within their communities.

Faith and Spirituality

Religion plays a significant role in the lives of many South Bronx residents. Kozol describes how churches and faith-based organizations provide comfort, resources, and a sense of community. He explores the importance of spirituality as a means of coping and inspiring change amid adversity.

Kozol's Critique of Social and Educational Policies

Government Response to Urban Poverty

Kozol is sharply critical of government policies that fail to address the needs of impoverished urban communities. He argues that budget cuts, bureaucratic indifference, and political neglect have exacerbated the suffering in the South Bronx. The book calls for more equitable distribution of resources and greater accountability from public officials.

Inequity in School Funding

One of Kozol's main arguments concerns disparities in school funding. He demonstrates how the reliance on local property taxes creates vast differences in educational quality, leaving students in poor districts at a disadvantage. Kozol advocates for reforms that would ensure all children have access to high-quality education, regardless of their zip code.

Media and Public Perception

Kozol examines how mainstream media often ignores or misrepresents the struggles of communities like the South Bronx. He critiques the tendency to blame individuals for systemic problems and calls for greater awareness and compassion in public discourse about poverty and inequality.

Impact and Reception of "Amazing Grace"

Influence on Social Reform

"Amazing Grace" has played a significant role in shaping discussions about poverty, education, and urban policy. The book has been used in academic courses, cited by activists, and referenced in debates about social justice. Kozol's advocacy has inspired renewed attention to the challenges facing marginalized communities and the urgency of reform.

Critical Acclaim and Reader Response

Upon its release, "Amazing Grace" received widespread critical acclaim for its compassionate storytelling and incisive analysis. Reviewers praised Kozol's ability to convey complex issues through relatable narratives, and the book continues to resonate with readers today. Its impact is evident in ongoing conversations about equity and opportunity in America.

Legacy and Continued Relevance

Decades after its publication, "Amazing Grace" remains relevant. The issues Kozol highlighted persist in many urban centers, making the book a valuable resource for understanding the roots and realities of poverty. It continues to inspire educators, policymakers, and advocates working to create a more just society.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main message of "Amazing Grace" by Jonathan Kozol?

A: The main message of "Amazing Grace" is the urgent need for social and educational reform to address the systemic poverty and inequality faced by children and families in the South Bronx. Kozol advocates for compassion, equity, and justice.

Q: Who are the central figures in the book?

A: The book centers on the children, parents, and community leaders of the South Bronx. Their stories illustrate the personal and collective struggles of living in poverty and serve as the emotional foundation of Kozol's narrative.

Q: How does Jonathan Kozol describe the South Bronx?

A: Kozol portrays the South Bronx as an area marked by extreme poverty, racial segregation, inadequate schools, and serious health challenges, yet also as a community filled with resilience, hope, and solidarity.

Q: What educational issues are discussed in "Amazing Grace"?

A: Kozol discusses underfunded schools, overcrowded classrooms, lack of resources, and unequal educational opportunities. He criticizes the funding system and calls for comprehensive reforms to ensure all children have access to quality education.

Q: How did "Amazing Grace" influence social policies?

A: The book raised public awareness about urban poverty and educational inequality, influencing academic, policy, and advocacy circles. It inspired discussions and initiatives aimed at improving conditions in marginalized communities.

Q: What role does faith play in the book?

A: Faith and spirituality provide comfort, hope, and a sense of community for many South Bronx residents. Kozol highlights the importance of religious

organizations in supporting individuals and advocating for change.

Q: Why is "Amazing Grace" by Jonathan Kozol still relevant today?

A: The issues of poverty, inequality, and failing public systems described in the book persist in many American cities, making Kozol's insights and calls for reform as pertinent now as when the book was first published.

Q: What solutions does Kozol propose?

A: Kozol advocates for equitable funding of schools, comprehensive social services, and policies that address the root causes of poverty and segregation. He emphasizes the need for compassion and collective responsibility.

Q: What genre is "Amazing Grace"?

A: "Amazing Grace" is a nonfiction work that blends journalism, social commentary, and personal narrative to examine urban poverty and its broader implications.

Q: How does Kozol collect information for his book?

A: Kozol spent several years visiting the South Bronx, conducting interviews with children, parents, teachers, and community leaders, and observing life firsthand to gather authentic stories and insights for his book.

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Amazing Grace by Jonathan Kozol: A Summary and Critical Analysis

Meta Description: Dive deep into Jonathan Kozol's "Amazing Grace," exploring its heartbreaking portrayal of poverty and educational inequality in America. This comprehensive summary offers key

themes, characters, and criticisms, leaving you with a deeper understanding of this powerful work.

Keywords: Amazing Grace by Jonathan Kozol summary, Jonathan Kozol Amazing Grace, Amazing Grace book summary, Kozol's Amazing Grace analysis, Amazing Grace themes, Amazing Grace critical review

Introduction:

Jonathan Kozol's "Amazing Grace" isn't a light read. It's a gut-wrenching immersion into the lives of children and families living in the crushing poverty of South Bronx, New York. Published in 1995, the book remains chillingly relevant today, offering a stark and unflinching look at the systemic inequalities that perpetuate cycles of disadvantage. This blog post will provide a detailed summary of "Amazing Grace," highlighting its key themes, characters, and the powerful arguments Kozol makes about the failures of the American educational system and the devastating impact of poverty on young lives. We'll also analyze the book's lasting impact and its continued relevance in contemporary discussions about social justice.

H2: A Glimpse into the South Bronx: Setting the Stage

Kozol spends years immersing himself in the South Bronx community, documenting the lives of its residents. He doesn't shy away from the harsh realities: crumbling buildings, pervasive drug use, rampant violence, and a deep sense of hopelessness. The setting itself is a character, a backdrop to the struggles faced by the individuals he profiles. This isn't just a statistical account; it's a lived experience, meticulously observed and poignantly depicted. Kozol's choice to focus on this specific location underscores the concentrated poverty and systemic neglect affecting specific communities within America.

H2: Key Characters and Their Stories

Kozol doesn't present a single narrative but rather weaves together a tapestry of individual stories. He highlights the resilience of families facing unimaginable hardships. These aren't just names and statistics; they are individuals with dreams, fears, and hopes crushed by circumstances beyond their control. Through these intimate portraits, he humanizes the statistics of poverty, making the abstract realities tangible and deeply affecting. We encounter children struggling to learn in overcrowded, under-resourced schools; parents battling addiction and unemployment; and entire communities grappling with the consequences of systemic disinvestment. The lack of resources and consistent support is striking, making the reader question the social contract and the promises of equal opportunity.

H3: The Children of Amazing Grace

The children featured are perhaps the most poignant aspect of the book. Their stories are heartbreaking, highlighting the daily challenges they face, from lack of adequate nutrition and healthcare to the emotional toll of living in a perpetually unstable environment. Their resilience in the face of such adversity is both inspiring and heartbreaking. Kozol powerfully illustrates how these children, despite their circumstances, retain a capacity for hope and a desire for a better future.

H2: Central Themes Explored in Amazing Grace

Several overarching themes run throughout "Amazing Grace," making it a significant contribution to discussions about social justice and educational equity:

H3: Educational Inequality: Kozol powerfully critiques the inequities within the American education system. He shows how schools in impoverished communities are drastically under-resourced compared to those in wealthier areas, resulting in a stark disparity in educational opportunities. This inequality isn't accidental; it's a consequence of systemic choices and funding priorities.

H3: The Cycle of Poverty: The book vividly illustrates the cyclical nature of poverty, showing how poverty perpetuates itself across generations. Limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities traps families in a cycle of disadvantage that is extremely difficult to escape.

H3: The Power of Hope and Resilience: Despite the bleakness of the circumstances, Kozol also highlights the unwavering hope and resilience of the individuals he profiles. Their determination to overcome adversity underscores the strength of the human spirit and the importance of community support.

H2: Criticism and Lasting Impact

"Amazing Grace" has faced criticism, primarily centering on its focus on a specific community and the potential for reinforcing negative stereotypes. However, its lasting impact lies in its unflinching portrayal of the harsh realities of poverty and the urgent need for systemic change. The book has been instrumental in raising awareness about educational inequality and prompting discussions about the role of social policy in addressing poverty.

H2: Relevance Today

While published over two decades ago, "Amazing Grace" remains strikingly relevant today. The issues of poverty, educational inequality, and systemic racism continue to plague many communities across the United States. The book serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing need for social reform and equitable distribution of resources.

Conclusion:

Jonathan Kozol's "Amazing Grace" is a powerful and unsettling read, a testament to both the devastating consequences of poverty and the incredible resilience of the human spirit. It's a book that demands attention, prompting critical reflection on our societal structures and the urgent need for meaningful change. Its enduring legacy lies in its ability to stir empathy and inspire action towards a more just and equitable future.

FAQs:

1. Is "Amazing Grace" a purely negative portrayal of poverty? No, while it depicts harsh realities, it also highlights the resilience, hope, and strength of the individuals and communities it profiles.
2. What are the primary solutions Kozol suggests in the book? Kozol implicitly advocates for systemic changes, including increased funding for under-resourced schools, comprehensive social support programs, and policies addressing economic inequality.

3. How does "Amazing Grace" compare to Kozol's other works? While sharing similar themes, "Amazing Grace" focuses specifically on the educational challenges and urban poverty, differing in its geographic focus from other works like "Savage Inequalities."

4. Is the book suitable for all readers? Due to its graphic depictions of poverty and its mature themes, the book might be disturbing for some readers. Reader discretion is advised.

5. Where can I find more information on the issues raised in "Amazing Grace"? Organizations dedicated to fighting poverty and educational inequality, such as the NAACP and organizations focused on housing and food security, offer valuable resources and information.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *Amazing Grace* Jonathan Kozol, 2012-06-26
Amazing Grace is Jonathan Kozol's classic book on life and death in the South Bronx—the poorest urban neighborhood of the United States. He brings us into overcrowded schools, dysfunctional hospitals, and rat-infested homes where families have been ravaged by depression and anxiety, drug-related violence, and the spread of AIDS. But he also introduces us to devoted and unselfish teachers, dedicated ministers, and—at the heart and center of the book—courageous and delightful children. The children we come to meet through the friendships they have formed with Jonathan defy the stereotypes of urban youth too frequently presented by the media. Tender, generous, and often religiously devout, they speak with eloquence and honesty about the poverty and racial isolation that have wounded but not hardened them. Amidst all of the despair, it is the very young whose luminous capacity for love and transcendent sense of faith in human decency give reason for hope.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *Fire in the Ashes* Jonathan Kozol, 2013-09-03
In this powerful and culminating work about a group of inner-city children he has known for many years, Jonathan Kozol returns to the scene of his previous prize-winning books, and to the children he has vividly portrayed, to share with us their fascinating journeys and unexpected victories as they grow into adulthood. For nearly fifty years, Jonathan has pricked the conscience of his readers by laying bare the savage inequalities inflicted upon children for no reason but the accident of being born to poverty within a wealthy nation. But never has his intimate acquaintance with his subjects been more apparent, or more stirring, than in *Fire in the Ashes*, as Jonathan tells the stories of young men and women who have come of age in one of the most destitute communities of the United States. Some of them never do recover from the battering they undergo in their early years, but many more battle back with fierce and often jubilant determination to overcome the formidable obstacles they face. As we watch these glorious children grow into the fullness of a healthy and contributive maturity, they ignite a flame of hope, not only for themselves but also for our society.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *Ordinary Resurrections* Jonathan Kozol, 2012-07-24
Jonathan Kozol's books have become touchstones of the American conscience. In *Ordinary Resurrections*, he spends four years in the South Bronx with children who have become his friends at a badly underfunded but enlightened public school. A fascinating narrative of daily urban life, *Ordinary Resurrections* gives a human face to poverty and racial isolation, and provides a stirring testimony to the courage and resilience of the young. Sometimes playful, sometimes jubilantly funny, and sometimes profoundly sad, these are sensitive children—complex and morally insightful—and their ethical vitality denounces and subverts the racially charged labels that the world of grown-up expertise too frequently assigns to them. Yet another classic case of unblinking social observation from one of the finest writers ever to work in the genre, this is a piercing discernment of right and wrong, of hope and despair—from our nation's corridors of power to its poorest city streets.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *The Shame of the Nation* Jonathan Kozol, 2006-08-01
Since the early 1980s, when the federal courts began dismantling the landmark ruling in

Brown v. Board of Education, segregation of black children has reverted to its highest level since 1968. In many inner-city schools, a stick-and-carrot method of behavioral control traditionally used in prisons is now used with students. Meanwhile, as high-stakes testing takes on pathological and punitive dimensions, liberal education has been increasingly replaced by culturally barren and robotic methods of instruction that would be rejected out of hand by schools that serve the mainstream of society. Filled with the passionate voices of children, principals, and teachers, and some of the most revered leaders in the black community, *The Shame of the Nation* pays tribute to those undefeated educators who persist against the odds, but directly challenges the chilling practices now being forced upon our urban systems. In their place, Kozol offers a humane, dramatic challenge to our nation to fulfill at last the promise made some 50 years ago to all our youngest citizens.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Letters to a Young Teacher Jonathan Kozol, 2008-08-05 "This remarkable book is a testament to teachers who not only respect and advocate for children on a daily basis but who are the necessary guardians of the spirit. Every citizen who cares about the future of our children ought to read this."—Eric Carle, author of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and other classic works for children "Kozol's love for his students is as joyful and genuine as his critiques of the system are severe. He doesn't pull punches."—The Washington Post In these affectionate letters to Francesca, a first grade teacher at an inner-city school in Boston, Jonathan Kozol vividly describes his repeated visits to her classroom while, under Francesca's likably irreverent questioning, he also reveals his own most personal stories of the years that he has spent in public schools. *Letters to a Young Teacher* reignites a number of the controversial issues Jonathan has powerfully addressed in his bestselling *The Shame of the Nation* and *On Being a Teacher*: the mania of high-stakes testing that turns many classrooms into test-prep factories where spontaneity and critical intelligence are no longer valued, the invasion of our public schools by predatory private corporations, and the inequalities of urban schools that are once again almost as segregated as they were a century ago. But most of all, these letters are rich with the happiness of teaching children, the curiosity and jubilant excitement children bring into the classroom at an early age, and their ability to overcome their insecurities when they are in the hands of an adoring and hard-working teacher.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Savage Inequalities Jonathan Kozol, 2012-07-24 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "An impassioned book, laced with anger and indignation, about how our public education system scorns so many of our children."—The New York Times Book Review In 1988, Jonathan Kozol set off to spend time with children in the American public education system. For two years, he visited schools in neighborhoods across the country, from Illinois to Washington, D.C., and from New York to San Antonio. He spoke with teachers, principals, superintendents, and, most important, children. What he found was devastating. Not only were schools for rich and poor blatantly unequal, the gulf between the two extremes was widening—and it has widened since. The urban schools he visited were overcrowded and understaffed, and lacked the basic elements of learning—including books and, all too often, classrooms for the students. In *Savage Inequalities*, Kozol delivers a searing examination of the extremes of wealth and poverty and calls into question the reality of equal opportunity in our nation's schools. Praise for *Savage Inequalities* "I was unprepared for the horror and shame I felt. . . . *Savage Inequalities* is a savage indictment. . . . Everyone should read this important book."—Robert Wilson, *USA Today* "Kozol has written a book that must be read by anyone interested in education."—Elizabeth Duff, *Philadelphia Inquirer* "The forces of equity have now been joined by a powerful voice. . . . Kozol has written a searing exposé of the extremes of wealth and poverty in America's school system and the blighting effect on poor children, especially those in cities."—Emily Mitchell, *Time* "Easily the most passionate, and certain to be the most passionately debated, book about American education in several years . . . A classic American muckraker with an eloquent prose style, Kozol offers . . . an old-fashioned brand of moral outrage that will affect every reader whose heart has not yet turned to stone."—*Entertainment Weekly*

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *The Theft of Memory* Jonathan Kozol,

2015-06-02 National Book Award winner Jonathan Kozol is best known for his fifty years of work among our nation's poorest and most vulnerable children. Now, in the most personal book of his career, he tells the story of his father's life and work as a nationally noted specialist in disorders of the brain and his astonishing ability, at the onset of Alzheimer's disease, to explain the causes of his sickness and then to narrate, step-by-step, his slow descent into dementia. Dr. Harry Kozol was born in Boston in 1906. Classically trained at Harvard and Johns Hopkins, he was an unusually intuitive clinician with a special gift for diagnosing interwoven elements of neurological and psychiatric illnesses in highly complicated and creative people. "One of the most intense relationships of his career," his son recalls, "was with Eugene O'Neill, who moved to Boston in the last years of his life so my father could examine him and talk with him almost every day." At a later stage in his career, he evaluated criminal defendants including Patricia Hearst and the Boston Strangler, Albert H. DeSalvo, who described to him in detail what was going through his mind while he was killing thirteen women. But *The Theft of Memory* is not primarily about a doctor's public life. The heart of the book lies in the bond between a father and his son and the ways that bond intensified even as Harry's verbal skills and cogency progressively abandoned him. "Somehow," the author says, "all those hours that we spent trying to fathom something that he wanted to express, or summon up a vivid piece of seemingly lost memory that still brought a smile to his eyes, left me with a deeper sense of intimate connection with my father than I'd ever felt before." Lyrical and stirring, *The Theft of Memory* is at once a tender tribute to a father from his son and a richly colored portrait of a devoted doctor who lived more than a century.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *Illiterate America* Jonathan Kozol, 2011-11-02

It is startling and it is shaming: in a country that prides itself on being among the most enlightened in the world, 25 million American adults cannot read the poison warnings on a can of pesticide, a letter from their child's teacher, or the front page of a newspaper. An additional 35 million read below the level needed to function successfully in our society. The United States ranks forty-ninth among 158 member nations of the UN in literacy, and wastes over \$100 billion annually as a result. The problem is not merely an embarrassment, it is a social and economic disaster. In *Illiterate America*, Jonathan Kozol, author of National Book Award-winning *Death at an Early Age*, addresses this national disgrace. Combining hard statistics and heartrending stories, he describes the economic and the human costs of illiteracy. Kozol analyses and condemns previous government action—and inaction—and, in a passionate call for reform, he proposes a specific program to conquer illiteracy. One out of every three American adults cannot read this book—which is why everyone else must.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *Class Dismissed* Meredith Maran, 2000-10-20

This gripping story -a year in the lives of three high school seniors and their school-takes us deep into the hearts and minds of American teenagers, and American society, today. The seniors of Berkeley High are the white, black, Latino, Asian, and multiracial children of judges and carpenters, software consultants and garbage collectors, housewives and housekeepers. Some are Harvard bound; others are illiterate. They are the Class of 2000, and through the lives of three of them *Class Dismissed* brings us inside the nation's most diverse high school-where we glimpse the future of the nation. Autumn was ten when her father abandoned her family; since then she's been helping her mother raise her two little brothers and keep food on the table-while keeping her grades up so she can go to college. Her faith in God gives Autumn strength, but who will give her the money she needs when she's offered the opportunity of a lifetime? From the outside, Jordan's life looks perfect. He hangs out with the rich white kids; rows on the crew team, has a cool mom, applied early to an East Coast college. But Jordan's drug-addicted father died last year, leaving Jordan reeling with grief and anger that makes his life feel anything but perfect-and his future suddenly seem uncertain. A third-generation Berkeley High student, Keith is bright and popular, a talented football player who hopes to play college ball and one day, go pro. But Keith has a reading problem that threatens his NFL dream. And the Berkeley police have a problem with Keith that threatens his very freedom.

Looking into the lives of these young people, in this American town, at this time in history, we see more than what's true---and what's possible--for Berkeley High. We see what's true and what's possible for America.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: The Gatekeepers Jacques Steinberg, 2003-07-29 In the fall of 1999, New York Times education reporter Jacques Steinberg was given an unprecedented opportunity to observe the admissions process at prestigious Wesleyan University. Over the course of nearly a year, Steinberg accompanied admissions officer Ralph Figueroa on a tour to assess and recruit the most promising students in the country. The Gatekeepers follows a diverse group of prospective students as they compete for places in the nation's most elite colleges. The first book to reveal the college admission process in such behind-the-scenes detail, The Gatekeepers will be required reading for every parent of a high school-age child and for every student facing the arduous and anxious task of applying to college. [The Gatekeepers] provides the deep insight that is missing from the myriad how-to books on admissions that try to identify the formula for getting into the best colleges...I really didn't want the book to end. —The New York Times

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: The Poor Christ of Bomba Mongo Beti, 2024-02-01 Award-winning author Mongo Beti presents The Poor Christ of Bomba, a cutting satirical critique on the role of Catholic missionaries and French colonialism in 1930s Cameroon. A revolutionary novel in its time. In the small village of Bomba, a French missionary priest is instructed to build a parish for its residents. Father Drumont has one important task; to save the village from heresy by preparing its girls for Christian marriage. A servant in Father Drumont's house, a young boy named Denis is reliant on the priest's generosity after the death of his mother. In the eyes of the Catholic church, Denis is the perfect example of the African heathen saved by Christianity - but the reality of what happens behind closed doors is much more sinister. 'One of the foremost African writers of the independence generation.' Guardian

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: The Garbage King Elizabeth Laird, 2008-09-04 Inspired by the true story of an African childhood lived on the edge of destitution, award-winning Elizabeth Laird's The Garbage King takes readers on an unforgettable emotional journey. When Mamo's mother dies, he is abandoned in the shanties of Addis Ababa. Stolen by a child-trafficker and sold to a farmer, he is cruelly treated. Escaping back to the city, he meets another, very different runaway. Dani is rich, educated - and fleeing his tyrannical father. Together they join a gang of homeless street boys who survive only by mutual bonds of trust and total dependence on each other.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Corporation Nation Charles Derber, 2014-09-09 Foreword by Ralph Nader. In Corporation Nation Derber addresses the unchecked power of today's corporations to shape the way we work, earn, buy, sell, and think—the very way we live. Huge, far-reaching mergers are now commonplace, downsizing is rampant, and our lines of communication, news and entertainment media, jobs, and savings are increasingly controlled by a handful of global—and unaccountable—conglomerates. We are, in effect, losing our financial and emotional security, depending more than ever on the whim of these corporations. But it doesn't have to be this way, as this book makes clear. Just as the original Populist movement of the nineteenth century helped dethrone the robber barons, Derber contends that a new, positive populism can help the U.S. workforce regain its self-control. Drawing on core sociological concepts and demonstrating the power of the sociological imagination, he calls for revisions in our corporate system, changes designed to keep corporations healthy while also making them answerable to the people. From rewriting corporate charters to altering consumer habits, Derber offers new aims for businesses and empowering strategies by which we all can make a difference.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? Beverly Daniel Tatum, 2017-09-05 The classic, New York Times-bestselling book on the psychology of racism that shows us how to talk about race in America. Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy? How can we get past our reluctance

to discuss racial issues? Beverly Daniel Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about communicating across racial and ethnic divides and pursuing antiracism. These topics have only become more urgent as the national conversation about race is increasingly acrimonious. This fully revised edition is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand dynamics of race and racial inequality in America.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Urban Sociology William G. Flanagan, 2010-01-16 The fifth edition of this text presents a balanced review of the ecological arguments that the urban arena produces unique experiential and urban-based cultural effects while exploring the broader political and economic contexts that produce and modify the urban environment. In addition to examining the urban dimensions of such topics as community formation and continuity, minority and majority dynamics, ethnic experience, poverty, power, and crime, it provides an analysis of the spatial distribution of population and resources with regard to the metropolitanization of the urban form, and the interaction between urban concentration and development and underdevelopment. From a first chapter that begins with a discussion of some of the more micrological features of the urban experience, the text focuses on the significance of the more macrological cultural, social organizational, and political dimensions of urban change, in an historical span that includes the first cities and concludes with an exploration of the implications of cyberspace, transnationalism, and global terrorism for the future of urban sociology. While the work focuses primarily on the North American case, its analytical and integrated discussion makes it applicable to urban societies in general.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: The Impossible Will Take a Little While Paul Rogat Loeb, 2014-04-29 More relevant than ever, this seminal collection of essays encourages us to believe in the power of ordinary citizens to change the world In today's turbulent world it's hard not to feel like we're going backwards; after decades of striving, justice and equality still seem like far off goals. What keeps us going when times get tough? How have the leaders and unsung heroes of world-changing political movements persevered in the face of cynicism, fear, and seemingly overwhelming odds? In The Impossible Will Take a Little While, they answer these questions in their own words, creating a conversation among some of the most visionary and eloquent voices of our times. Today, more than ever, we need their words and their wisdom. In this revised edition, Paul Rogat Loeb has comprehensively updated this classic work on what it's like to go up against Goliath -- whether South African apartheid, Mississippi segregation, Middle East dictatorships, or the corporations driving global climate change. Without sugarcoating the obstacles, these stories inspire hope to keep moving forward. Think of this book as a conversation among some of the most visionary and eloquent voices of our times -- or any time: Contributors include Maya Angelou, Diane Ackerman, Marian Wright Edelman, Wael Ghonim, Václav Havel, Paul Hawken, Seamus Heaney, Jonathan Kozol, Tony Kushner, Audre Lorde, Nelson Mandela, Bill McKibben, Bill Moyers, Pablo Neruda, Mary Pipher, Arundhati Roy, Dan Savage, Desmond Tutu, Alice Walker, Cornel West, Terry Tempest Williams, and Howard Zinn.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Gender Talk Johnnetta B. Cole, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, 2009-01-16 Why has the African American community remained silent about gender even as race has moved to the forefront of our nation's consciousness? In this important new book, two of the nation's leading African American intellectuals offer a resounding and far-reaching answer to a question that has been ignored for far too long. Hard-hitting and brilliant in its analysis of culture and sexual politics, *Gender Talk* asserts boldly that gender matters are critical to the Black community in the twenty-first century. In the Black community, rape, violence against women, and sexual harassment are as much the legacy of slavery as is racism. Johnnetta Betsch Cole and Beverly Guy-Sheftall argue powerfully that the only way to defeat this legacy is to focus on the intersection of race and gender. *Gender Talk* examines why the "race problem" has become so male-centered and how this has opened a deep divide between Black women and men. The authors turn to their own lives, offering intimate accounts of their experiences as daughters, wives, and

leaders. They examine pivotal moments in African American history when race and gender issues collided with explosive results—from the struggle for women's suffrage in the nineteenth century to women's attempts to gain a voice in the Black Baptist movement and on into the 1960s, when the Civil Rights movement and the upsurge of Black Power transformed the Black community while sidelining women. Along the way, they present the testimonies of a large and influential group of Black women and men, including bell hooks, Faye Wattleton, Byllye Avery, Cornell West, Robin DG Kelley, Michael Eric Dyson, Marcia Gillispie, and Dorothy Height. Providing searching analysis into the present, Cole and Guy-Sheftall uncover the cultural assumptions and attitudes in hip-hop and rap, in the O.J. Simpson and Mike Tyson trials, in the Million Men and Million Women Marches, and in the battle over Clarence Thomas's appointment to the Supreme Court. Fearless and eye-opening, *Gender Talk* is required reading for anyone concerned with the future of African American women—and men.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *The Stone Angel* Margaret Laurence, 2010-10-08 The film adaptation of Margaret Laurence's *The Stone Angel*, starring acclaimed actresses Ellen Burstyn and Ellen Page, and introducing Christine Horne, opens in theatres May 9, 2008. This special fortieth-anniversary edition of Margaret Laurence's most celebrated novel will introduce readers again to one of the most memorable characters in Canadian fiction. Hagar Shipley is stubborn, querulous, self-reliant, and, at ninety, with her life nearly behind her, she makes a bold last step towards freedom and independence. As her story unfolds, we are drawn into her past. We meet Hagar as a young girl growing up in a black prairie town; as the wife of a virile but unsuccessful farmer with whom her marriage was stormy; as a mother who dominates her younger son; and, finally, as an old woman isolated by an uncompromising pride and by the stern virtues she has inherited from her pioneer ancestors. Vivid, evocative, moving, *The Stone Angel* celebrates the triumph of the spirit, and reveals Margaret Laurence at the height of her powers as a writer of extraordinary craft and profound insight into the workings of the human heart.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *Drowning Anna* Sue Mayfield, 2004-07-01 Anna Goldmith, a quiet new student at a small Yorkshire school, becomes friends with the popular Hayley Parkin, not knowing the humiliation and bullying she has in store for her.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *Understanding School Choice in Canada* Lynn Bosetti, Dianne Gereluk, 2016-08-04 *Understanding School Choice in Canada* provides a nuanced and theoretical overview of the formation and rise of school choice policies in Canada. Drawing on twenty years of work, Lynn Bosetti and Dianne Gereluk analyze the philosophical, historical, political, and social principles that underpin the formation and implementation of school choice policies in the provinces and territories. Bosetti and Gereluk offer theoretical frameworks for considering the parameters of school choice policies that are aligned and attentive to Canadian educational contexts. This robust overview successfully shifts the debate away from ideology in order to facilitate an understanding that the spectrum of school choice policy in Canada is a response to the varying political challenges in society at large. This book is essential reading for those who desire a deeper understanding of school choice policies in Canada.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: *In the Basement of the Ivory Tower* Professor X, 2011-03-31 A caustic expose of the deeply state of our colleges-America's most expensive Ponzi scheme. What drives a former English major with a creative writing degree, several unpublished novels, three kids, and a straining marriage to take a job as a night teacher at a second-rate college? An unaffordable mortgage. As his house starts falling apart in every imaginable way, Professor X grabs first one, then two jobs teaching English 101 and 102-composition and literature-at a small private college and a local community college. He finds himself on the front lines of America's academic crisis. It's quite an education. This is the story of what he learns about his struggling pupils, about the college system-a business more bent on its own financial targets than the wellbeing of its students-about the classics he rediscovers, and about himself. Funny, wry, self-deprecating, and a provocative indictment of our failing schools, *In the Basement of the Ivory Tower* is both a brilliant academic satire and a poignant account of one teacher's seismic frustration-and unlikely

salvation-as his real estate woes catapult him into a subprime crisis of an altogether more human nature.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Rachel and Her Children Jonathan Kozol, 2011-06-01 Extraordinarily affecting....A very important book....To read and remember the stories in this book, to take them to heart, is to be called as a witness. THE BOSTON GLOBE There is no safety net for the millions of heartbroken refugees from the American Dream, scattered helplessly in any city you can name. RACHEL AND HER CHILDREN is an unforgettable record for humanity, of the desperate voices of the men, women, and especially children, and their hourly struggle for survival, homeless in America.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: The Night is Dark and I Am Far from Home Jonathan Kozol, 1990 A bold inquiry into the values and goals of America's schools.--Cover.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Made in America Laurie Olsen, 2008 Explores the experiences and challenges faced by immigrant students as they are slowly assimilated into American culture.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Our America Lealan Jones, Lloyd Newman, David Isay, 1998-05 The award-winning creators of National Public Radio's Ghetto Life 101 and Remorse: The 14 Stories of Eric Morse combine talents with a young photographer to show what life is like in one of the country's darkest places: Chicago's Ida B. Wells housing project. Photos.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: I Heard the Owl Call My Name Margaret Craven, 2017-11-14 Amid the grandeur of the remote Pacific Northwest stands Kingcome, a village so ancient that, according to Kwakiutl myth, it was founded by the two brothers left on earth after the great flood. The Native Americans who still live there call it Quee, a place of such incredible natural richness that hunting and fishing remain primary food sources. But the old culture of totems and potlatch is being replaced by a new culture of prefab housing and alcoholism. Kingcome's younger generation is disenchanted and alienated from its heritage. And now, coming upriver is a young vicar, Mark Brian, on a journey of discovery that can teach him—and us—about life, death, and the transforming power of love.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Poverty and Power Edward Royce, 2022-06-09 Poverty is a serious problem in the United States, more so than commonly imagined, and more so than in other industrialized nations. Most Americans adhere to an individualistic perspective: they believe poverty is largely the result of people being deficient in intelligence, determination, education, and other personal traits. Poverty and Power, Fourth Edition challenges this viewpoint, arguing that poverty arises from the workings of four key structural systems—the economic, the political, the cultural, and the social—and ten obstacles to economic justice, including unaffordable housing, inaccessible health care, and racial and gender discrimination. The author argues that a renewed war on poverty can be successful, but only through a popular movement to bring about significant change in the workings of American economic, political, and cultural institutions. New to this Edition Enhanced conversation on why the cultural theory of poverty has such a strong appeal to the American public develops students' critical thinking skills (Chapter 3) New segment on the influence of job seekers' physical appearance on hiring decisions showing that success is not simply a matter of education, skills, and training (Chapter 4) New data on the "job availability problem" explains in detail why the monthly headline unemployment number is misleading, and new content on the 2021 upsurge of quits on the part of American workers portrays efforts on the part of ordinary people to improve their lives (Chapter 5) New content on how corporations have become increasingly assertive political players explores the dramatic increase in corporate lobbying efforts, the rise of billionaire political activists, and the creation of a powerful conservative political infrastructure in the United States (Chapter 6) Greater attention to racially segregated and resource-deprived Black communities covers the extraordinary hardships experienced by the residents of these areas, while a new section on the geographical isolation of the affluent discusses how isolation affects wealthy people's beliefs and perceptions about poverty and what policies they deem acceptable (Chapter 8)

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Fragments Benjamin Wilkomirski, 1996 Memoir of a small boy who was separated from his family at the age of three or four-years-old after his father was killed during a round-up of Jews in Latvia, and was sent to the Majdanek death camp where he was discovered by Allied soldiers in 1945.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Theories Of Relativity Barbara Haworth-Attard, 2017-03-14 This hard-hitting yet poignant novel shows that Barbara Haworth-Attard has as much talent with a contemporary setting as she does with her bestselling historical fiction titles. Sixteen-year-old Dylan is living on the streets, trying hard to understand how he got there. All he knows is that he doesn't want to become like the other street kids around him, hooked on drugs and in debt to Brendan, a.k.a. Vulture. But as winter sets in, Dylan's life becomes a desperate struggle to survive.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Methods in Educational Research Marguerite G. Lodico, Dean T. Spaulding, Katherine H. Voegtle, 2010-04-07 Methods in Educational Research Methods in Educational Research is designed to prepare students for the real world of educational research. It focuses on scientifically-based methods, school accountability, and the professional demands of the twenty-first century, empowering researchers to take an active role in conducting research in their classrooms, districts, and the greater educational community. Like the first edition, this edition helps students, educators, and researchers develop a broad and deep understanding of research methodologies. It includes substantial new content on the impact of No Child Left Behind legislation, school reform, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, logic modeling, action research, and other areas. Special features to assist the teaching and learning processes include vignettes illustrating research tied to practice, suggested readings at the end of each chapter, and discussion questions to reinforce chapter content. Praise for the Previous Edition A new attempt to make this subject more relevant and appealing to students. Most striking is how useful this book is because it is really grounded in educational research. It is very well written and quite relevant for educational researchers or for the student hoping to become one. -PscCRITIQUES/American Psychological Association I applaud the authors for their attempt to cover a wide range of material. The straightforward language of the book helps make the material understandable for readers. -Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Rethinking Elementary Education Linda Christensen, Mark Hansen, Bob Peterson, 2012 Rethinking Elementary Education collects the finest writing about elementary school life and learning from 25 years of Rethinking Schools magazine. The articles in this collection offer practical insights about how to integrate the teaching of content with a social justice lens, seek wisdom from students and their families, and navigate stifling tests and mandates. Teachers and parents will find both inspiration and hope in these pages.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: The Educated Mind Kieran Egan, 2007-12-01 The Educated Mind offers a bold and revitalizing new vision for today's uncertain educational system. Kieran Egan reconceives education, taking into account how we learn. He proposes the use of particular intellectual tools—such as language or literacy—that shape how we make sense of the world. These mediating tools generate successive kinds of understanding: somatic, mythic, romantic, philosophical, and ironic. Egan's account concludes with practical proposals for how teaching and curriculum can be changed to reflect the way children learn. A carefully argued and readable book. . . . Egan proposes a radical change of approach for the whole process of education. . . . There is much in this book to interest and excite those who discuss, research or deliver education.—Ann Fullick, New Scientist A compelling vision for today's uncertain educational system.—Library Journal Almost anyone involved at any level or in any part of the education system will find this a fascinating book to read.—Dr. Richard Fox, British Journal of Educational Psychology A fascinating and provocative study of cultural and linguistic history, and of how various kinds of understanding that can be distinguished in that history are recapitulated in the developing minds of children.—Jonty Driver, New York Times Book Review

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: All on Fire: William Lloyd Garrison and the

Abolition of Slavery Henry Mayer, 2008-05-17 Superb....[A] richly researched, passionately written book.--William E. Cain, Boston Globe Widely acknowledged as the definitive history of the era, Henry Mayer's National Book Award finalist biography of William Lloyd Garrison brings to life one of the most significant American abolitionists. Extensively researched and exquisitely nuanced, the political and social climate of Garrison's times and his achievements appear here in all their prophetic brilliance. Finalist for the National Book Award, winner of the J. Anthony Lucas Book Prize, winner of the Commonwealth Club Silver Prize for Nonfiction.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: A Son of the Forest and Other Writings William Apress, 1997 This book brings together the best-known works of the 19th-century Indian writer William Apress, including the first extended autobiography by a Native American. The text is drawn from ON OUR OWN GROUND, which was named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book. This new edition of Apress's classic texts is designed for classroom use.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Brave New Neighborhoods Margaret Kohn, 2004 First Published in 2004. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Under the Influence James Robert Milam, Katherine Ketcham, 1983 Discusses the symptoms, stages, and treatment of alcoholism. Focuses on the disease as physiological, rather than psychological, condition.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Redeeming a Prison Society Amy Levad, 2014-01-01 The U.S. criminal justice system is in a state of crisis, from unprecedented rates of imprisonment and recidivism to the privatization of the prison system and the disproportionate representation of particular racial, ethnic, social, and economic groups, all of which is within a larger social justice context. Catholics and Protestants have largely failed to offer vital theological responses. Amy Levad offers a Catholic perspective that directly addresses the concrete issues from a strongly interdisciplinary approach and utilizes the rich liturgical and sacramental resources of penance and Eucharist to offer a theological vision of reform.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Ghosts in the Schoolyard Eve L. Ewing, 2020-04-10 "Failing schools. Underprivileged schools. Just plain bad schools." That's how Eve L. Ewing opens *Ghosts in the Schoolyard*: describing Chicago Public Schools from the outside. The way politicians and pundits and parents of kids who attend other schools talk about them, with a mix of pity and contempt. But Ewing knows Chicago Public Schools from the inside: as a student, then a teacher, and now a scholar who studies them. And that perspective has shown her that public schools are not buildings full of failures—they're an integral part of their neighborhoods, at the heart of their communities, storehouses of history and memory that bring people together. Never was that role more apparent than in 2013 when Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced an unprecedented wave of school closings. Pitched simultaneously as a solution to a budget problem, a response to declining enrollments, and a chance to purge bad schools that were dragging down the whole system, the plan was met with a roar of protest from parents, students, and teachers. But if these schools were so bad, why did people care so much about keeping them open, to the point that some would even go on a hunger strike? Ewing's answer begins with a story of systemic racism, inequality, bad faith, and distrust that stretches deep into Chicago history. Rooting her exploration in the historic African American neighborhood of Bronzeville, Ewing reveals that this issue is about much more than just schools. Black communities see the closing of their schools—schools that are certainly less than perfect but that are theirs—as one more in a long line of racist policies. The fight to keep them open is yet another front in the ongoing struggle of black people in America to build successful lives and achieve true self-determination.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Thinkertoys Michael Michalko, 2010-12-01 Rethink the Way You Think In hindsight, every great idea seems obvious. But how can you be the person who comes up with those ideas? In this revised and expanded edition of his groundbreaking *Thinkertoys*, creativity expert Michael Michalko reveals life-changing tools that will help you think like a genius. From the linear to the intuitive, this comprehensive handbook details ingenious creative-thinking techniques for approaching problems in unconventional ways. Through fun and

thought-provoking exercises, you'll learn how to create original ideas that will improve your personal life and your business life. Michalko's techniques show you how to look at the same information as everyone else and see something different. With hundreds of hints, tricks, tips, tales, and puzzles, Thinkertoys will open your mind to a world of innovative solutions to everyday and not-so-everyday problems.

amazing grace by jonathan kozol summary: Troublemakers Carla Shalaby, 2017-03-07 A radical educator's paradigm-shifting inquiry into the accepted, normal demands of school, as illuminated by moving portraits of four young problem children In this dazzling debut, Carla Shalaby, a former elementary school teacher, explores the everyday lives of four young troublemakers, challenging the ways we identify and understand so-called problem children. Time and again, we make seemingly endless efforts to moderate, punish, and even medicate our children, when we should instead be concerned with transforming the very nature of our institutions, systems, and structures, large and small. Through delicately crafted portraits of these memorable children—Zora, Lucas, Sean, and Marcus—Troublemakers allows us to see school through the eyes of those who know firsthand what it means to be labeled a problem. From Zora's proud individuality to Marcus's open willfulness, from Sean's struggle with authority to Lucas's tenacious imagination, comes profound insight—for educators and parents alike—into how schools engender, exclude, and then try to erase trouble, right along with the young people accused of making it. And although the harsh disciplining of adolescent behavior has been called out as part of a school-to-prison pipeline, the children we meet in these pages demonstrate how a child's path to excessive punishment and exclusion in fact begins at a much younger age. Shalaby's empathetic, discerning, and elegant prose gives us a deeply textured look at what noncompliance signals about the environments we require students to adapt to in our schools. Both urgent and timely, this paradigm-shifting book challenges our typical expectations for young children and with principled affection reveals how these demands—despite good intentions—work to undermine the pursuit of a free and just society.

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