

Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform our Schools

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The eight forces that transform school culture are expectations, language, time, modelling, opportunities, routines, interactions, and environment. The book has a chapter on each concept and strategies to think about and implement positive change to each of these areas in a school.

While well reviewed, we discovered that this book is DENSE. It is a tough slog to read as there is so much to consider in each chapter. In contrast, the chapter introductions (definitions) and summaries are a succinct and meaningful way to get the gist of how to implement each chapter. Also, the appendix of classroom activities is excellent.

As a reading group, our choices in Indigenous content came into question as part of our values. As a result, we chose to read Marrow Thieves, the recent Governor General's winner. Our topics of discussion shifted into implementing indigenous content as part of time - how we use time reflects our thinking, opportunities - if we provide students with indigenous reading material we are giving opportunities for reconciliation, and environment - if we don't have these resources what is the environment saying about our values.

In retrospect, we think that this text would be worth reading as an entire staff, one chapter prior to each staff meeting. It will question an educator's beliefs about what is school, why we allocate time the way we do, and what we value - ie students' learning or the task being performed.

Sometimes questioning one's beliefs about what and why we do what we do is uncomfortable, and in the long run, done as a staff this text could set the stage for positive change.