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Philip G. Hill

Monsters in the Classroom

Noam Chomsky, Human Nature, and Education

SERIES IN EDUCATION

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About the author

Philip Hill earned his Ed.D. in effective pedagogy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. For 30 years, he taught at a high school in the Greater Toronto Area. In addition, he worked at a high school in Toluca, Mexico, where he was involved in various non-formal, community-based educational settings in rural Mexico. Hill conducted research in the Maquiladora region of the U.S.-Mexico border and participated in an annual international conference of educators from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico.

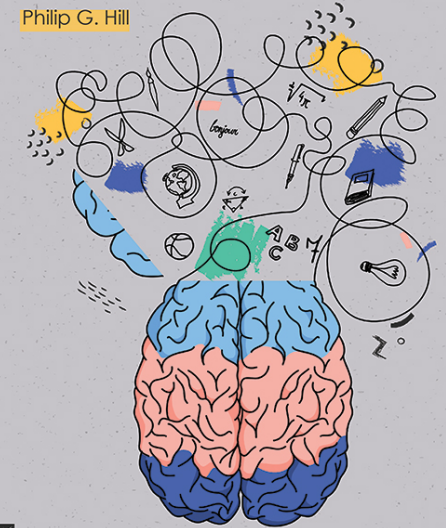
Summary

In this lucid, original, and comprehensive work, the articulated approaches to pedagogy are based on specific conceptions of human nature. Drawing on a vast range of Chomsky's prodigious output in linguistics, politics, biology, cognitive science, and education, Hill highlights two fundamental elements of Chomsky's understanding of human nature and uses these elements as the foundation of a highly creative approach to pedagogy. The originality of the work is apparent in the way the author identifies how key ideas in Chomsky's linguistics and political discourse are rooted in a liberatory approach to education. The value of the work lies in its practical nature. Even though it makes reference to ideas in various academic disciplines, the work's overall value is reflected in the way ideas relate to Hill's personal teaching experiences and how they apply in a concrete classroom setting. The reader is offered a practical and highly creative way to apply Chomsky's understanding of human nature in a classroom setting.

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