

Grit isn't the key to success. The TED Talks show us what these two women believe is the solution to "fixing" schools everywhere. But I don't think that's the answer to helping children at all. While I disagree on most notes, I do believe that they're onto the beginning of really being able to help kids learn and grow better. First off, I don't agree about the fixed and growth mindset. Everyone has a growth mindset. It's just a matter of getting people, especially children, to engage. And all children are better or more passionate in certain subjects that they are in others. That's what makes it so hard to teach. Because they all go at different paces. It's not a matter of them giving up or not because they feel discouraged. It has to do with how they're being taught. Many teachers can't or won't work with a student on something they don't understand. I remember being in sixth grade and switching to a school, near the end of the year, that taught Singapore math. I had no idea what I was doing and it felt like I was drowning in a subject that I previously loved. Not once did the teacher try and help me figure it out, even when I asked for help.

I'm also partially disagreeing with Duckworth about rewarding kids for their effort and participation. When kids do succeed shouldn't they be rewarded then too? I'm not saying the first is a bad thing; simply that they should take it a step farther and do both. When I got to the part where it says teachers aren't supposed to help a child when they're asked a question and don't know the answer, I immediately knew I disliked the "grit" theory. They let them sit there and squirm. I don't like this only because I know how it feels to be in the kid's position and I didn't like it at all. I didn't teach me anything. It only succeeded in making me feel like I should know the answer and to feel stupid because I didn't.

For the sake of research I took a "grit" test developed by Duckworth. The higher the score, the more "gritty" you are (The highest you could get was a 5). I scored a 3.5 and thought that that was fairly accurate except for the fact that I haven't failed many times in my life. I'm not saying this to sound egoistic but I know the reason I haven't is because of the way I grew up. Obviously I have in the school aspect, specifically in science, but I was never taught to just give up when I failed. It was just something I learned the hard way. The "grit" theory states that kids should be taught this but I don't think they need to in school. It's something parents or someone they look up to should teach them.

Like I said above, the "grit" theory has some exceptional points. But it needs to be tested and refined even more than it already has. I believe that with some fine tuning it can become the solution schools need to help children. It's just not there yet.