



World Peace and Other 4th-Grade Achievements

By John Hunter

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“At a time when school systems have completely lost focus on what really matters, John Hunter reminds us what we should be teaching our children. His ideas will help anyone who has the courage to understand that a real education must go beyond filling in circles on a standardized test form.” — Rafe Esquith, author of *Teach Like Your Hair’s on Fire*

Can playing a game lead to world peace? If it’s John Hunter’s World Peace Game, it just might. In Hunter’s classroom, students take on the roles of presidents, tribal leaders, diplomats, and military commanders. Through battles and negotiations, standoffs and summits, they strive to resolve a sequence of many-layered, interconnected scenarios, from nuclear proliferation to tribal warfare.

Now, Hunter shares inspiring stories from over thirty years of teaching the World Peace Game, revealing the principles of successful collaboration that people of any age can apply. He offers not only a forward-thinking report from the frontlines of American education, but also a generous blueprint for a world that bends toward cooperation rather than conflict. In this deeply hopeful book, a visionary educator shows us what the future of education can be.

“Inspired, breath-of-fresh-air reading.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“With numerous reflections on the game’s impact on certain students and a resounding final chapter highlighting his class’s 2012 visit to the Pentagon, Hunter proves the value of ‘slow teaching’ in this important, fascinating, highly readable resource for educators and parents alike.” — *Booklist*

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Hunter (teacher, education consultant, TED speaker) has been introducing global issues to students from his fourth-grade class and beyond for more than 20 years via his self-designed World Peace Game. Over a period of weeks, through a complex set of scenarios, children and teens learn to negotiate, battle, obtain resources, cooperate in the wake of natural disasters, and resolve all manner of conflicts with each other and in response to the demands of their ever-changing world. The game's success proves that long, thought-out thinking assignments provoke an unprecedented positive response in students, a conclusion that flies in the face of current standardized-testing requirements. "Where once there seemed to be room to wonder, to speculate, to not know," he writes, "there now seems to be increasing pressure for instant answers, immediate solutions, and narrowly defined results." With numerous reflections on the game's impact on certain students and a resounding final chapter highlighting his class's 2012 visit to the Pentagon, Hunter proves the value of "slow teaching" in this important, fascinating, highly readable resource for educators and parents alike. --Colleen Mondor

Review

"A veteran educator's uplifting account of how he introduced schoolchildren to global problems through a visionary game that charged them with saving the world . . . Inspired, breath-of-fresh-air reading." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"At a time when school systems have completely lost focus on what really matters, John Hunter reminds us what we should be teaching our children. His ideas will help anyone who has the courage to understand that a real education must go beyond filling in circles on a standardized test form." — Rafe Esquith, author of *Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire*

"John Hunter's World Peace Game is more than a brilliant example of educational game design. It shows us exactly how to inspire and manage creative collaboration around the most complex problems imaginable. And given that virtually all young people today are growing up gamers, this book is a must-read for twenty-first century educators and leaders." — Jane McGonigal, author of *Reality Is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*

"Hunter's optimism is infectious" — *Publishers Weekly*

"With numerous reflections on the game's impact on certain students and a resounding final chapter highlighting his class's 2012 visit to the Pentagon, Hunter proves the value of "slow teaching" in this important, fascinating, highly readable resource for educators and parents alike." — *Booklist*

From the Back Cover

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[AU PHOTO] JOHN HUNTER is an award-winning teacher and educational consultant. He has spoken at TED, the Aspen Ideas Festival, Google's Palo Alto campus, the Pentagon, the United Nations, and elsewhere to share the lessons of the World Peace Game.

Users Review

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