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If there’s a test really worth taking, a choice really worth making, it’s to read Some Tests, and all of Macauley’s writing, and see where you end up.’ Australian

Some Tests is neither a didactic nor an angry book. It’s actually very funny...[It] is ultimately a strange novel, amusing and very often frightening. And also, potentially, instructive.’ Sydney Review of Books

Macauley’s writing, and see

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Saturday Paper

Leaves one of two possible directions – do we avoid the test, or do we embrace it? The latter is the option that Macauley chooses: ‘Kill Your Darlings,’ a novel that offers a series of vignettes and short stories that highlight the absurdity and absurdity of the testing system.

A subtle and quietly moving novel about illness and death. Macauley’s stylised and artfully paced narrative, which gradually takes on a dreamlike quality, is a fine example of his ability to evoke the inchoate sense of dissatisfaction and existential disquiet that lurks beneath the surface of contemporary life.’ James Ley, Best Books of 2017, Australian Book Review

Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon?

The secrets behind China’s extraordinary educational system—good, bad, and ugly—Chinese students’ consistently stunning performance on the international PISA exams—where they outscore students of all other nations in math, reading, and science—have positioned China as a world education leader. American educators and punditshave declared this a “Sputnik Moment,” saying that we must learn from China’s education system in order to maintain our status as an education leader and global superpower. Indeed, many of the reforms taking hold in United Stateschools, such as a greater emphasis on standardized testing and deemphasizing importance of core subjects like reading and math, echo the Chinese system. We’re following in China’s footsteps—how did the direction we should take? Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon? by award-winning writer Yong Zhao offers an entertaining, provocative insider’s account of the Chinese school system, revealing the secrets behind it.

Zhao has a unique perspective on Chinese culture and education. Born and raised in China’s Sichuan province and a teacher in China for many years, Zhao has a unique perspective on Chinese culture and education. He explains in vivid detail how China turns out the world’s highest-achieving students in reading, math, and science—yet by all accounts Chinese educators, parents, and political leaders hate the system and long to send their kids to western schools. Filled with fascinating stories and compelling data, Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon? offers a nuanced and sobering tour of education in China.

Learn how China is able to turn out the world’s highest-achieving students in math, science, and reading. Discover why, despite these amazing test scores, Chinese parents, teachers, and political leaders are desperate to leave behind their educational system. Discover how current reforms in the U.S. parallel the classic Chinese system, and how this could help (or hurt) our students' prospects.

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Yong Zhao 2014-08-14 The secrets behind China's extraordinary educational system—good, bad, and ugly—Chinese students' consistently stunning performance on the international PISA exams—where they outscore students of all other nations in math, reading, and science—have positioned China as a world education leader. American educators and punditshave declared this a "Sputnik Moment," saying that we must learn from China's education system in order to maintain our status as an education leader and global superpower. Indeed, many of the reforms taking hold in United Stateschools, such as a greater emphasis on standardized testing and deemphasizing importance of core subjects like reading and math, echo the Chinese system. We're following in China's footsteps—but is this the direction we should take? Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon? by award-winning writer Yong Zhao offers an entertaining, provocative insider's account of the Chinese school system, revealing the secrets behind it.

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