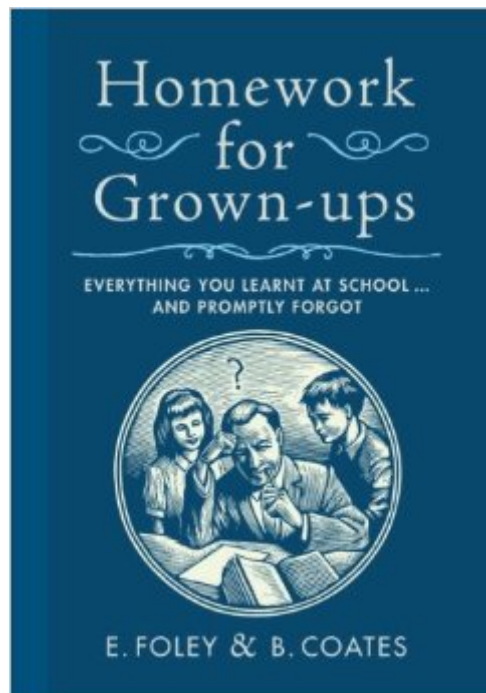


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# Homework For Grown-ups: Everything You Learned At School And Promptly Forgot



## Synopsis

A nostalgic compendium of essential knowledge that can help you show the world that you're smarter than a ten-year-old after all! Have you ever stared blankly at your kids when they've asked why the sky is blue? Or clumsily changed the subject when they've wanted to know why the wind blows? If you're done with school, it's likely you're also done knowing the difference between an isosceles and equilateral triangle, and you probably leave participles dangling all over the place. Well, not anymore! Thanks to professional know-it-alls Foley and Coates, you can now gain back your self-respect and actually show those kids a thing or two as you tell it to them straight (and not make it up from fragments of facts you kind of remember). Packed with all the basic facts that have managed to free-fall from our heads over the years, Homework for Grown-ups is the ultimate grammar school refresher course in book form. In fact, there's even a quiz at the end of each chapter to ensure you've been paying attention! Written in the light, engaging style of a favorite teacher and featuring lessons in English, math, history, science, geography, art, and even home economics and recess, this fun and handy guide will help you stop hemming and hawing and start speaking with a lot more authority—and a little less shame. E. FOLEY and B. COATES are editors at Vintage who both live in London.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had anticipated that this book would be a light read, perhaps for the coffee table or bathroom book shelf, but I was quite dismayed at how poorly the author accomplished his stated goal of covering

essential information, even in a shortened form. One can be terse while still being informative. However, the topics covered in this book are either laughably simply explained, useless, or many times plain wrong. In all respects, this book appears to be written to encourage an impulse buy while flipping through it in line at Barnes and Noble. A few comments on each section follow below:

- 1) English Language and Literature The coverage of basic grammar is good, although nothing earth-shattering. The impulse buyer may see some things like "commonly misspelled words" and get excited, but the list is not very long. The worst part was the review of English Literature, if one could call it a review. About a dozen classics summarized with vapid summaries that do not tell you anything about the book. For example, *Pride and Prejudice* is described thusly: "Sassy woman with nightmare family meets snobby rich boy. After various intrigues everyone ends up married." Some explanation as to the time period, style, thematic elements, or "why is this a classic" would be good in a book called "Homework for Grownups". Alas, this brief sentence is as good as it gets.
- 2) Mathematics Math was extremely basic, and was more of an elementary school curriculum than anything else. As an engineer, I will forgive the simplicity as I may not be objective. However, I would have expected some more detail, especially pertaining to more advanced numbers you see daily.

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