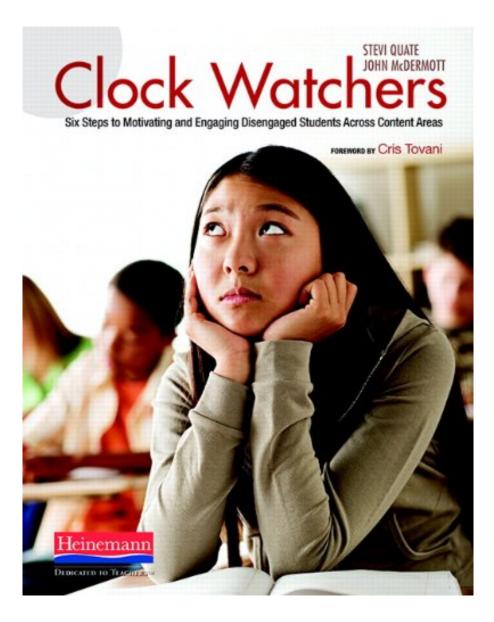


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About the Author

Stevi Quate sees every day why her Heinemann books The Just-Right Challenge and Clock Watchers (both coauthored with John McDermott) are so urgently needed. She consults in Colorado schools and is a site professor at large urban high schools in Denver, where teachers face unrelenting pressure to boost student performance - and where the ability to catch students' interest and hold it has proven essential to raising achievement. Stevi has also been a middle and high school teacher, codirector of the Colorado Writing Project, President of the Colorado affiliates of NCTE and IRA, and state literacy coordinator for the Colorado Department of Education.

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Listen to a podcast with Stevi Quate, John McDermott, and two teachers who have used their framework to get all students engaged and motivated.

"Instead of cringing the next time your colleagues utter the words, "These students don't care," hand them Clock Watchers. Describe your personal struggles and your experience with the book so they know that you know what they're going through. Then point out a few of your favorite ideas. As you walk away, you'll smile knowing you've made a difference." -Cris Tovani Author of I Read It, but I Don't Get It

For Stevi Quate and John McDermott, this was the missing piece of their teaching: "How can I motivate my students and then create a context that will engage them?" Clock Watchers is their powerful answer-a plan that gets kids to care about learning and truly engage with the curriculum.

Clock Watchers is not a book of tips and tricks. Instead it applies the research on motivation and engagement to support increased achievement and improved attitudes about school. Quate and McDermott's six-step framework:

- catches students' interest across the content areas
- holds it through meaningful learning and valuable interactions
- uses assessment to create further opportunities to connect kids with content
- sustains it all with ideas for projects, activities, and even classroom routines and rituals.

Clock Watchers works with the most reluctant learners. Its end-of-text study guide makes the book ideal for PLCs and study groups, and it is a research-based resource for district-wide initiatives aimed at improving student motivation and engagement.

If deeper learning, increased achievement, and reduced drop-out rates matter to you, then motivation and engagement are an urgent matter. Read Clock Watchers with colleagues and put it into action-before the time to change your students' lives runs out.

- Sales Rank: #356638 in Books
- Published on: 2009-08-03
- Released on: 2009-08-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x .47" w x 7.40" l, .75 pounds
- Binding: Paperback

• 192 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Recipe for Effective Instruction, Effective Learning

By MentorTeacherandGrandma

As an instructional strategies coach for beginning teachers k-12, I read, I annotate, and I model, many ideas from many professional books. Reading professional books and applying the concepts to the classrooms of the beginning teachers is my job. So I read many books and by far Clock Watchers is the best book I have read in the last 2 years. In my opinion I find the book as valuable and mindset changing for viewing learning and how to be an effective teacher as Radical Reflections by Mem Fox and I Read It and I Don't Get It by Cris Tovani.

Each chapter weaves anecdotes and examples with practical ideas and strategies. Each chapter weaves student engagement theory into the text. And yet this text treats the reader as a professional; there are no "scripted" strategies in the text, it is up to the professional to determine implementation.

Page after page I find thoughts that reinforce the findings of Classroom Instruction That Works, by Marzano, Pickering, and Polluck.

Page after page I find strategies that reinforce the instruction and guidance of The Strategic Teacher by Silver, Strong, and Perini.

I realize this review sounds like a paid commercial and maybe a little scripted but it is a honest, spontaneous reaction to a great book.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Solid Psychological Underpinnings

By LibraryLady2

Great tips for the beginning teacher. Excellent reminders for the veterans. Relatively short and easy to read. As a teacher and high school librarian with 20 yrs. in the business, I can tell you this one is worth having on your shelves! I'm buying extra copies for our professional libraries in our middle and high schools.

Chapter 1: Do We Have Time for Motivation and Engagement? (Obviously, we save time if we plan ways to meet the emotional needs of the humans we work with.)

Chapter 2: Caring Classroom Community (the foundation...SO true)

Ch. 3 Checking In and Checking Out (the motivational value of various types of assessment)

Ch. 4 Choice (essential to provide relevancy, autonomy, self-responsibility),

Ch. 5 Collaboration (how to design and monitor assorted collaborative communities)

Ch. 6 Challenge (excellent example of a high school social studies class with a focus on questions, arguments, and high expections)

Ch. 7 Celebrations (appreciating students and honoring their achievements)

Ch. 8 Putting It All Together: The Six C's as a Braided River

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Great for New Teachers Especially

By KC

Old joke. If you're ever wondering what time it is in a classroom, follow the pupils' eyes. The book CLOCK WATCHERS is intended to undo that joke by showing you how to be an interesting teacher. As professional development books are purchased by new and veteran teachers alike, I'd say this short work is more geared toward the former (unless, of course, you're a horrible veteran teacher, in which case you are not in the market for professional development books in the first place).

The authors cover a lot of familiar turf if you've been in the trenches for better than five years. For mnemonic reasons, they build their structure around the Six C's: Caring Classroom Community, Checking In and Checking Out, Choice, Collaboration, Challenge, and Celebration. Typically, one example is given of a teacher not adept at a skill, followed by another (or the same, after wising up) teacher doing it right. Then a series of practical ideas are paraded for the reader's possible use. In my case, many of the ideas were already known, but some new ones did come up, too, my favorite being the wrinkle on Socratic Seminars called the "Star Seminar," in which quieter students get a better chance to shine by sitting in a "spoke" of desks behind their leader (who is engaged in the seminar). The students behind, while listening, write ideas, questions, connections, inferences, etc., on 3x5 index cards and pass them up silently as the leader continues to engage. Then, at set points (and not unlike Canada geese), the speaker goes back to the last desk and a new leader takes over as the students move up until everyone gets a chance to engage, both silently and verbally.

Some great practical advice here for newbies. Veterans can probably find richer texts, but might want to use it for mentoring purposes.

See all 8 customer reviews...

Guides Clock Watchers: Six Steps To Motivating And Engaging Disengaged Students Across Content Areas By Stevi Quate, John McDermott, from straightforward to difficult one will be a quite beneficial operates that you could take to change your life. It will not give you unfavorable statement unless you do not get the meaning. This is undoubtedly to do in reading a publication to get over the meaning. Frequently, this book qualified Clock Watchers: Six Steps To Motivating And Engaging Disengaged Students Across Content Areas By Stevi Quate, John McDermott is read because you truly like this sort of book. So, you can obtain easier to comprehend the impression as well as definition. When longer to always remember is by reading this book **Clock Watchers: Six Steps To Motivating And Engaging Disengaged Students Across Content Areas By Stevi Quate, John McDermott**, you can fulfil hat your curiosity begin by finishing this reading book.

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