



16th Annual
Hawker Brownlow
**Thinking &
Learning**
Conference

the teacher's conference

TODD STANLEY
THURSDAY 16 MAY
Session 2

 **A Gifted Institute**

Profiles of an Underachieving Gifted Student

MELBOURNE

TODD STANLEY

Todd Stanley, a US National Board Certified Teacher, has been a classroom teacher for the past 13 years in a myriad of positions. He spent the first five years of his career compacting gifted curriculum in a junior high school program called Horizons. The next three years were as a facilitator at the Christopher Program, a project-based, interdisciplinary program for Year 11 and Year 12 students from around central Ohio. He then created the Ivy Program, a gifted pull-out for Year 3 and Year 4 students. Todd also travelled around the state of Ohio for the Literacy Curriculum Alignment Program, training school staffs on how to write short-cycle assessments and align their curriculum.



A message from Hawker Brownlow Education

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Profile #1

This student is highly creative. Unfortunately this creativity clashes with the traditional classroom where this student hates strict regimented academics. He does love learning, excelling when finding something that interests him and being given the space to explore it. Unfortunately the student is not given the opportunity to do this much in school. The teacher gets equally frustrated because she knows this student is very bright but is a non-conformist. He would rather give his opinion on something than a correct answer which clashes with her style of teaching. He ignores any subject that is not of interest to him and the teacher has had to ask him to leave the classroom on occasion because his questioning of everything was undermining her authority with the other students.

Profile #2

This student is a frequent mover between school districts. Because of this, he keeps to himself and is treated like an outcast by the other students, not really having any close friends. From all indications he seems to have a very bad home life, there being no father on the emergency medical contact list, and his mom's behavior is erratic. Although his grades are very poor, he does seem to have an affinity for English although rather than reading classics like *The Great Gatsby* or *Of Mice and Men*, he prefers to read comic books. He loves to learn new words, even studying the dictionary at times. If he were asked, he would say that he was smart, but also that he hates school. This student would fail the 9th grade three times and eventually drop out at age 17.

Profile #3

This student has been home schooled for her childhood education. She does enjoy fantasy play and creating characters. She also is an excellent reader and good at problem solving skills, but has difficulty with spelling, math, foreign language, and the mechanics of writing. She often has to recite her answers and someone else writes them down for her because her handwriting is so poor. In math she often forgets numbers which makes it difficult for her to do even the most rudimentary arithmetic problem.

Profile #4

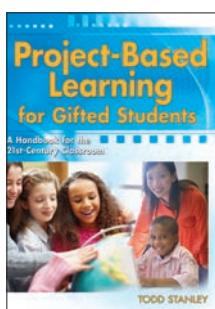
This is a student who was in gifted programming in elementary school but the transition to higher grades was more difficult given many school social factors. Throughout his academic career he has shown a propensity for math and technology, even being put in charge of the school's computer server and running the sound system for many of the school plays. In high school he takes some advanced level classes but gets just average grades. His teachers and parents believe he is capable of much more but he seems content to do just enough to get by. They think his lack of motivation to achieve better grades comes from the fact that he does not want to stand out from the crowd, especially in a school where there are a lot of bullies who prey on differences.

Profile #5

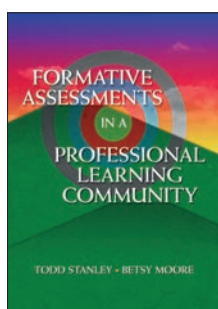
This student just has a disdain for school. He consistently scores in the bottom half of his class and is tardy to school a majority of the days. This student has become bored with school, often saying to have hardly been asked to learn anything that was of interest to him. Because of this he constantly clashes with the authority of the school, causing trouble whenever possible and getting into fights with other students. The only subject he seems to care about is history which is also the only class he does well in. He also can memorize quite well, winning a school contest by memorizing 1200 lines of a poem. He has interest in being in the military but his teachers think he is not good enough at math to be successful there. He has applied to schools but placed 390th out of 693 candidates. He also is not very respectful to adults.

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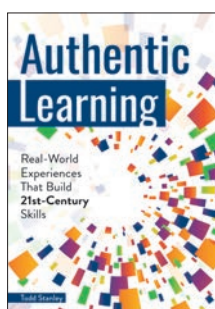
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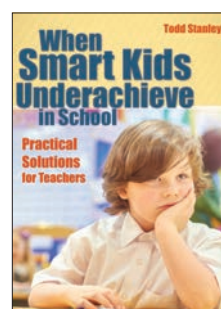
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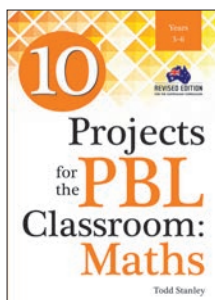
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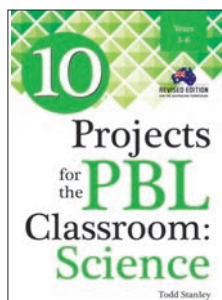
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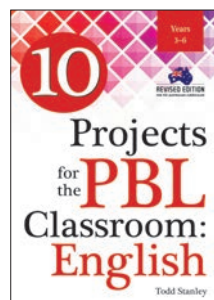
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