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Literacy in American Lives

Deborah Brandt

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Deborah Brandt : Literacy in American Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Literacy in American Lives:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I work as a reading instructor at a community college ...By Michelle CochranI work as a reading instructor at a community college. This book is a must read for anyone involved in literacy education. Five stars!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very informativeBy BCA great book if you need to learn about literacy in America. I used the book in a research class at Akron U as it was required.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important but Hard to ReadBy BooksformeBrandt has amazing research here but

it can sometimes be hard to understand what she is trying to communicate to us. That being said, this book helped open my eyes to the power and politics in literacy learning. This is invaluable information to reading and writing teachers. This is a must-read!

Literacy in American Lives traces the changing conditions of literacy learning over the past century as they were felt in the lives of ordinary Americans born between 1895 and 1985. The book demonstrates what sharply rising standards for literacy have meant to successive generations of Americans and how--as students, workers, parents, and citizens--they have responded to rapid changes in the meaning and methods of literacy learning in their society. Drawing on more than 80 life histories of Americans from all walks of life, the book addresses critical questions facing public education at the start of the twenty-first century.

"*Literacy in American Lives* is a meaningful contribution to the field of literacy and an important and necessary read for students of literacy history, researchers and theoreticians, leaders in the literary associations, and legislative policy makers." *Journal of Literacy Research*"In *Literacy in American Lives*, Deborah Brandt raises the bar for the sound understanding of literacy at the end of the millennium. She does this by embedding her understanding--and ours--in an impressive blend of interdisciplinary approach and perspective; historical and cultural contextualization; and humane passion for her subject, the individual lives whose narratives undergird and mediate her interpretation, and all of our hopes and needs for the 21st century. Her treatment is fresh and original. Professors and educators across disciplines and institutions should read *Literacy in American Lives*. But its combination of sane argument and methodological rigor on a topic where commentators can succumb to excess calls out to readers beyond the academy." Harvey J. Graff, University of Texas at San Antonio"This book makes a significant contribution to literacy studies, and it deserves to be widely read. Brandt pushes us to reconsider many settled assumptions about how people learn to read and write, and she does it in lyrical prose that is a pleasure to read. I expect that we will be talking about and following the lead of her work for a long time." *Rhetoric About the Author*Deborah Brandt is Professor Emerita of English at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.