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We have written this book with an eye to the interests and concerns of parents, teachers, and others responsible for young people’s learning and welfare. We have tried to make it readable; but it is also an academic text, and so we have tried to find a style that can address a range of audiences. We want this book to provide an informed basis for policy and hope that its analysis can help teachers, parents, and others to navigate the difficult challenges of what it means to grow up today.

This book has taken up a good four years of our lives. Among other things, we have learned a good deal from working with each other. This book is a genuine and equal collaboration; we have shared and pored over every phrase and note, resulting in almost countless iterations of every chapter. Collaboration often requires some adjustment, and we both feel that each other’s skill, expertise, and knowledge has extended and challenged the other and that this book has taken us to a point we could not have reached separately.
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