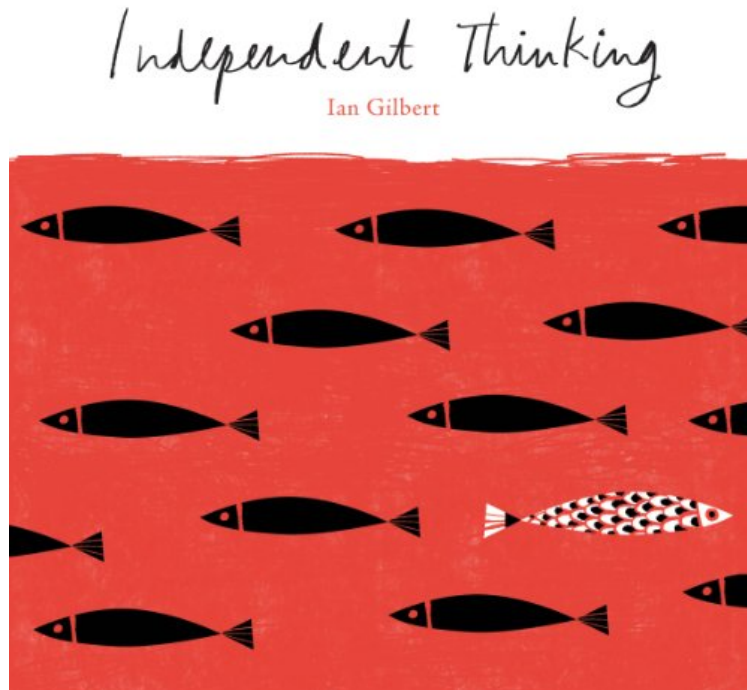


# Independent Thinking

*Ian Gilbert*

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**Ian Gilbert : Independent Thinking** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Independent Thinking:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You must read this book.By Lisa B. FioreThis book should be required reading for all humans. It is funny, engaging, and just plain smart!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Elona BastionEasy to read. Wonderful humour allowing for 'thought provoking' on serious concepts.

Think for yourself before someone does it for you. The first in a new series by and for people who know how important it is to think for yourself. Written by Independent Thinking founder Ian Gilbert, this book is an invaluable collection of reflections, ideas and insights on the nature of learning, thinking, creativity and, drawing on Ian s experience in three continents, the role education has in changing not only people s lives but also entire societies. Combining articles published in the UK, Middle East and South America plus examples of his controversial online postings and Tweets with new observations and insights and at least 100 Twittered Thanks or Twunks this book is the informed ramblings of a passionate educationalist who has made a significant difference to classrooms for over 20 years and has earned the right to speak his mind.

What an engaging read, splattered with gems which will make you think and thinkagain about life, living, dying and what education, teaching and schools are, and how, at their best, they might excite and influence. Idiosyncratic it is,

with its Thunks and its apparent kaleidoscopic randomness, but all the more worth reading because, or despite of, all that. Christopher Day, Professor of Education, University of Nottingham For 20 years Ian Gilbert's company Independent Thinking has encouraged us to think independently. Never has that been more important. His new book is a wonderful celebration of how education should be about more than value-added: it should be 'values-added'. Ian Gilbert exudes strong values and clear principles. His writing is endlessly inventive and refreshing, and his ideas serve as an uplifting antidote to an educational world which can too often feel dispiriting, mechanical and joyless. This is a book to read and keep returning to, to rejuvenate us in the darker days of term-time. Highly recommended. Geoff Barton, Head Teacher, King Edward VI School, Suffolk Ian Gilbert has provided us with a wonderful, entertaining smorgasbord of a read. The author offers insights into his personal history and charts the ways in which this has influenced his own intellectual development. In doing so, he continually challenges our assumptions and delivers some perceptive comments on current educational practice. Although the book differs from conventional educational offerings, readers will undoubtedly find themselves forced to rethink their ideas about the best way to prepare today's children for life in tomorrow's world. Professor Maurice Galton, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge I enjoyed the latest book by my namesake – but not relative I should hasten to add! Independent Thinking is a teacher-friendly book in many ways. First, for busy classroom teachers, like me, it can be dipped in and out of and you'll find treasure on every page: a pearl of wisdom to motivate you; a wonderful 'Thunk' to get you rethinking a subject with a fascinating question; a meditation upon the purpose of education to make you think about why you're teaching; an incisive observation about young people to enable you to see them in a different light; an autobiographical reflection to help you see how we're all connected by our common familial experiences; and points to help you be a better parent or professional. Second, this book is informed by a philosophy which is both coherent and creative. A unifying theme permeates it, which is possibly encapsulated by one of Gilbert's aphorisms: 'Creativity starts with "If only ..."; Mediocrity ends with it.' Francis Gilbert, author of *I'm A Teacher, Get Me Out Of Here* In the modern world of education, it has become commonplace for individuals, groups and companies to offer solutions for our every need. Education, through its obsession with data, 'outstanding' lessons and results, has led to the need for silver bullets and quick-fix solutions. This is what makes Ian Gilbert's Independent Thinking such a refreshing book to read. Through an eclectic mix of stories, reflections and Thunks, the book fosters the very process which gives it its title. Reading this book will not provide any solutions but will act as fertile jump-off points to new questions and thinking as you engage with the many ideas explored here. There is a wide selection of topics, insights and perspectives but running through them is a strong Freirean philosophy and a belief in the goodness and potential of humanity. This is a book which can be used in a number of different ways, from a starting point for personal reflection to a focus for collaborative discussion. One element which I find particularly positive is the lack of a simple, linear narrative; the reader can engage with as little or as much of the content as they wish, and can engage with the ideas in an order that suits them. Deleuze, the French philosopher, argues that we should think with the world rather than about it; this book, for me, embodies this ideal. Dr Phil Wood, School of Education, University of Leicester Independent Thinking is scattered with Ian Gilbert's own life experiences, using them to highlight his passion about what education should be. This is a must-read for teachers, parents, students, anyone with an interest in how our children are taught, and most importantly those responsible for designing and influencing the school curriculum! From the first page to the last page, Independent Thinking is not only easy to read, but easy to relate to, easy to agree with almost everything written on every page, easy to say 'Yes, why isn't that happening?' and easy to write a list of all those you would like to read it. It isn't easy to put down and it won't be one of those books Ian describes in one of his bookshelf chapters, with the remark that 'if you have a book but don't read it within three months give it to someone else'. Number 1 in the list of 42 uses for this book is 'To help you think' and it does just that. Using at times personal examples from throughout his life, he questions why 'thinking' is not integrated into teaching as naturally as it should be, which in turn makes the reader ask the same question. The arguments made for why it should be are hard to argue against. Latifa Hassanali, Programme Manager, 'a prestigious international school near London'