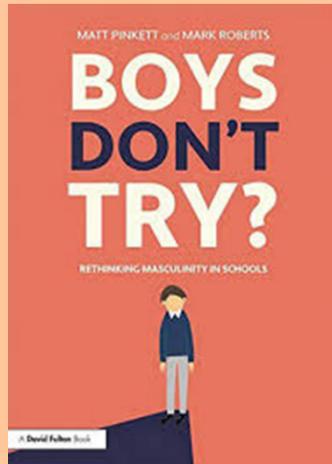


## Boys Don't Try by Matt Pinkett and Mark Roberts

*Book Review by Jessica Simpson*



"There is a significant problem in our schools: too many boys are struggling."

'Boys Don't Try?' by Matt Pinkett and Mark Roberts explores the complex map of the teenage brain.

"Boys Don't Try? examines the research around key topics such as anxiety and achievement, behaviour and bullying, schoolwork and self-esteem." It debunks some long-held myths about teaching boys. Boys will "self-handicap" when faced with competition as they do not want to feel in anyway emasculated through a lack of knowledge. Boys want

to be challenged and everybody is different, therefore they need to learn about a range of topics through a range of different methods. There "are no significant differences in male and female cognition" so our expectations in terms of behaviour, scholastic excellence and achievement should be the same. The book also explores how disadvantaged boys can be branded as less able and how this has had a detrimental effect on achievement. The term 'toxic masculinity' is scrutinised within the book, suggesting 'tender masculinity' is what we should strive for. The aim of the book is to make everyone (including young men, and women) aware of gender and the stereotypes they have been branded with and give them the knowledge and power to challenge this for themselves. The book is an insightful study into the expectations that have been placed on young men and the "laddish" nature of boys is explored showing us how "banter" has become a corruption for everyone not just in the classroom but deeply rooted in our culture.

Every chapter is broken down into the stories, the research and the solutions, "offering practical quick wins, as well as long-term strategies to help boys become happier and achieve greater academic success."

Everyone should read 'Boys Don't Try?'