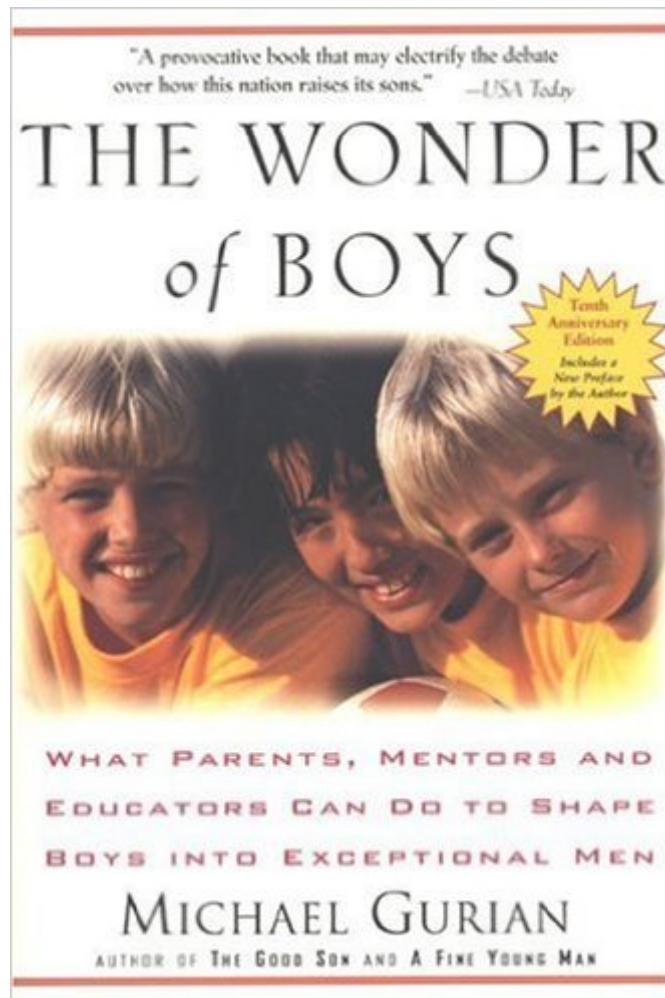


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# The Wonder Of Boys



## **Synopsis**

"THE WONDER OF BOYS is a provocative book that electrifies the debate over how this nation raises sons." USA Today In this insightful and practical book, Michael Gurian describes what boys need to become strong, responsible, sensitive men. Instead of encouraging us to stifle boys' natural propensities for competition and aggression, Gurian offers effective and practical guidelines for channeling them. He shows how the evils boys are susceptible to, including gang activity, sexual misconduct, and crime, become necessary outlets when positive role models and adult support are not available. Most important, Gurian explains what a boy really needs--a primary and an extended family, relationships with mentors, and intense support from his school and community--and details how we can provide these things for the boys we love.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I bought this book for a quarter at a garage sale. I am a male, but I don't have kids of my own (and no I'm not looking to lure any into my unmarked van!) I'm a preschool teacher and when I bought this book I can't say I actually intended on reading it. I was more or less going to use it for reference, but I was suddenly confronted with a class that was almost entirely boys, and not just any type of boys but rowdy inattentive boys. I can see how a lot of reviewers have claimed that this book is sexist and lacks in scientific research. Normally I'm turned away by books that don't have solid scientific backing, but I work with kids and I can tell you...there's no exact anything, let alone science when it comes to understanding children. This is where this book has been incredibly helpful because a lot of his points are heavily based on observation. As a male myself with a strong

sense of my own childhood, I can tell you his observations are fairly accurate when it comes to the things that boys need in order to thrive. I'm not saying every point he made was an exact science, but it struck a chord with me as a male because it fit with what I knew as a kid, and even what I know today to be true of myself. Some of his points are more general, such as boys being more spatially oriented, and task specific. And for those who are claiming he's sexist for even making distinctions in these area's, they need to do a little more research. I'm not for excluding any gender, but there are inherent differences between boys and girls and if you play to the strong suits of one or the other you're going to get a better effect. In my case I had to make my class more task driven.

Gurian has done an astoundingly thorough job in addressing the issues many of us face in raising boys today. I have read other books about raising boys, including other books by Gurian (also good), but this one by far is the most comprehensive, thoughtfully put together book I've ever read. I think that anyone who is thoughtful about raising sons and committed to doing the best job possible should take a good look at this book and give serious consideration to his ideas. Gurian admits in this book that he does not have all the answers and is constantly working to refine his suggestions. I love what he has done and how he has done it, by actually talking with many families and kids around the world, and using this information, along with neuroscience, and his rich cultural background and education to formulate these suggestions. The book is based on the unique testosterone driven neurological needs of males. It explains this in detail and how to best support a boy's development and channel a boy's natural aggression into a positive and constructive way of life through out the different stages of development. If you do not believe in the idea of "testosterone driven neurological needs" of boys, then this book may not be for you. But there have been many studies done that have shown the differences in male and female brains and much experiential evidence that there are differences. Any teacher and parent I have asked who has both sons and daughters attests to these differences. Again, if you are a parent of boys and committed to doing the best job you can, this book deserves a sincere look, and these ideas, serious consideration. I do see this book as a passionate advocate for boys and maleness, but NOT as male over female promoting.

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