

Pulled Up Short with Stanton Wortham

# How can education be about acquiring nothing?

**Featuring René Arilla with Samantha Ha (guest host) and Chris Higgins (commentator)**

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Stanton Wortham ", " \*

I Wba\_ Wfa Bg^W Gb EZadZf Z[e [e SbaVUSef fZSfie WfafW fa SbSf [Lg^Sd] [ V aX SUR[hfk i ZVdW  
i WdWfa V ea\_ W W bVbVU[hVea` fZ[ YefZSf USgeVge fa efabf fa TWbg^W gb eZadfi S V fZ[ ] S  
ffWT[f STagf ea\_ VZ[ Y fZSf i WTWVW Tgf i Z[LZ fgd eagf` af fa TWfgWadSf VSe fZSf i W  
`Ww fa dVb` e[VdTSaW a` ea\_ W W [ Xad\_ Sfa` fZSf i WHTWW Y[hWž

FZ[e [e S [ badS f fZ[ Y fa Važ; f dVg[dV fZSf i WdWb` [i WWWWk ZW bVgbbae[fja` d fZSf i W  
WfVfS[ fZWbae[T[fk fZSf agdfkb[US`i Ske aXg` WdS V[ Y SdM[ Ua\_ bVWadV[efad[ YžI W WW  
fa TWabW fa cgVefja` eS V S^fVd Sf[hWad\_g^Sfa` eaXTSe[U[egVefZSf i WfWV fa fS] WadYdS fWž  
I WZShWfa TW [^f Y fa Ua` e[VdS^fVd Sf[hW Ske aX fZ[ ] [ YžF Z[e dVg[dV S Ua\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa  
[ SY[ Sfa` f fa eW Y fZW adV [ ` W i Skel S Ua\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa ekefW Sf[US^k [ cg[d` Y TSeW a`  
W[WVUNS V dVSea` i ZVWVd[f VSe S Ua\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa TW Y abWf fa \_ ah[ Y TVka` V VaY\_ Sf[e\_ f  
S V Ua` e[Vd Y S^fVd Sf[hWTWVVeS V bcdSUR[Uad adUa\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa Ua` hVesfa` fa fefW[ Y WWb`k  
fa afZVes V [ cg[d` Y a[ f^ž

Ea [ VSLZ Vb[eaWVi WdWfa[ Y fa ZVsdXa\_ ea\_ Wd` W Za ZSeS [ eYZf adea\_ VZ[ Yi Wwa` if  
fkb[US^k fZ[ ] STagf fZSf dVg[dV ge fa TWbg^W gb eZadfi fa dVZ[ ] ea\_ VZ[ Y fZSf i WfWV fa fS] W  
XadYdS fWž 3` Vi WZabWfZSf kagi^W`akž

Samantha Ha #,%+

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ES\_ f S V faVSk; \_ WfYZfW fa eVhWSe SYgVef Zaef XadfZ[e Vb[eaWV [fZ fi a bVab`W Za; YdVf`k  
SV\_ [dVSe bVab`W\_ Wfad S V VSV[ Y eLZa` Se [ fZWVW aX bZ[`aeabZk aX WgUSfa` ž FaVSk i W  
ZShW [fZ ge DW; 3dU^S i Za [eSBdXVeadXBZ[`aeabZk aX 7VgUSfa` Sf @W Kad] G` [hVefkž  
I VsdVSea` gU] k fa ZShW5Zde: [YY] d i Za [eSea SBdXVeadS V BZ[`aeabZVdaX 7VgUSfa` f ZVdW  
Sf 4aefa` 5a^Wwi Za i [^a[ geSeSV[e]gees f

cgVefja` aX WgUSfa` ž I ZSf isWgUSfa` f W/SURk1 ; [fS^k [ ] Wb[ Yi [fZ fZWbaVUSef eVdV  
fZW W; V [ Wfa WdUTWZai fZ[e cgVefja` US` bg^ge gb eZadfi e[ b`k TWVgeWf eWV eea  
g` eVfagež ; feag` Ve [ WfZW] [ V aXi dVUZ a` W\_ [YZf fZdai [ fa S Ua` hVesfa` fa WV\_ S V ST[f aX

SffWf[a` -[ fZW\_ V\$ f[ W/a` W

eW [ Y [ V [ X W U W f Z W ad V S d g ` V g e ž 6 [ V f Z W S [ W Z W S W V W U k a g f f Z W  
E a U S ^ [ g e f U W W g e a ` t S V [ W U W U k , i

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; fZ[ ] ea \_gLZ STagf WgUSf[a` t S V \_SkTWi ZW ; eSk WgUSf[a` ZVdW; \_VS t dLZaa↑ Y dSFZVd [f dMa hVd Schg` V fZ[e [W\$ aX Subg[d` Y ea\_ VIZ[ Yz; fZ[ ] STagf fZW[VSe aX aTWUf[hVd YaS`d YdSWW e] [^zF ZaeWsdAS^fZ[ Ye fZSf kag US` Subg[dMS V baeeVd ↑] Wkag eS[V fZ[ Ye fZSf; US` f`a` S f`S eL[bf ad\_ k dVg\_ W`XadVjS\_ b^Vz3` V eat [f eWV\_ efa \_ W] WkagidWbdabae[ Y ea\_ VIZ[ Y V[XVdVf fZS` fZSf ea\_ W\$ fVd Sf[hWfa fZ[eXS\_ [fSdLh` U`bf aX WgUSf[a` ž3` V eat; L\_ Ya` `S Va fZW VSk fZ[ Yf Se kag eSk S V Se] kag fa ZS V \_ WfZWS d` VdZ Eat i ZSf [e fZ[eS`fVd Sf[hWLa` U`bf[a` aX WgUSf[a` 1: ai t Zai US` i WfZ[ ] STagf [f afZVd [eW

René Arcilla #\$,#\*

KVSZi i Wt; VagTf; US` Va \_ adVfZS \_ VdWk [ fdaVgUW[fz 4gf; \_ Y`SV fa fdk TVUSgeW[fedaafW [ i ZSf S↑ Ske \_ S] Vd\_ We\_ [MSTagf Zai \_ k e`fack La` f] gWz; ffgd e agf fZSf; W`WV gb LZaae[ Y 5Z[LSYa S`VdS^Xba\_ S\_ a` Y fZWELZaa`e fZSf SUWbfW \_ W\$ V fZSf <S] ea` V[V TWLa\_ W\_ k \_ Wfad` A` UW` a[ W fZ[e] fW`VfG\$`La\_\_ g` [fk; V`Sd W`Xba\_ S`af aX afZVd fV\$UZVd S V efgWVfd faat Se; e[^^Va faVSkz 4gf; i ag`V` f TWebV\$ [ Y fa kag S`dYZf` ai [X [f i VdV f`XadZW VjS\_ b^VzWdV`Xad\_ Vd : WfdaSUZW fZWbSFZ fZSf`W fa agd\_ Wf[ Yz

KVd ea\_ VIZ[ Y [ \_ WX[bbW TVd W fZW\_ a\_ Wf; XW Z[e aX[UWS`Vd fZSf X`df h[e]f S V fZW \_ a\_ Wf; Y[ YVd k dVgd W S`Vd SUWbf[ Y 5Z[LSYa eaXVd aX SV\_ [ee[a` ž <S] ea` ecgVd[a` [ Y aX fZW hVd k La` U`bf aX WgUSf[a` ZSV ZS`fW \_ W] \_ kfdS] eS V Z[e] e[e fWf bgd`g[f aX fZ[e cgVd[a` [ Yf [Y ad` Y S`fZWeaU[S`bdaT`W\_e fZSf Ld[W agf`Xad WgUSf[a` S`See[eS UW dVdW`Vz KVd; US\_ WTSU] ž I Zk1 I ZSf [e [f STagf Z[e cgVd[a` fZSf g`f` S`Vd SbbV\$`W fa \_ W

3`fZagYZ fZ[e SbbV\$`ebgdW \_ k fS] [ Y S UZS UWa` 5Z[LSYa S V <S] ea` t S V fZW YdW [ fa S WVgd[ Y US`↑ Y [ \_ k ↑WV[fe` SfgdVef`^WgVd`S V ZSg` fe\_ Vd` A` UW` SUWbfW VdW fZWbaee[T[↑fk fZSf; V[V` f]` ai fZWf`gW\_ V\$ [ Y aX WgUSf[a` t fZSf WgUSf[a` Uag`V TWSTagf\_ adVfZS` fZW Subg[e]f[a` aX]` ai` W`VWS V fZWea`h[ Y aX eaU[S`bdaT`W` d fZ[e [Y` adS` UW[ e fV\$V aX dVWVd` Y\_ W g` ST`Mfa WgUSf`WadT`W`VgUSf`W` abW`W \_ Wfa ea\_ VIZ[ Y fZSf XWVe ↑] WS dV\$`a` Ya[ Y WgUSf[a` ž 3`XVd WUSVd` aX bSf[U]bSf[ Y [ [f ZVdVScW`ea\_ W\_ aWef[ [ La` Uge[hWbdh[e]a` S`fZagYZ fe STagf i Zk; La` f] gWfa S`X`d\_ fZ[e bSd

i a` Wd[XfZVk SdASeSdg`W af UWfWdW a` eagdUe aX]` ai `WYW

dWVf[a` i i VdM eb[dW Tk S V VjbdVW ea\_ VZ[ YTVSgfXg^S V\_ keVdIage1 I ZSf [X [f fdS e\_ [fe  
i a` WdSf fZaeWZ[ YefZSf [ fVdWf ge[ fZW adV [ VVW i a` WdSf fZW adV [feW VdS [ Y ge  
VWbVd [ fa [f1 ;` efVdV aXbdVdUgbk[ Y agdVhVei [fZ fZWfXW W\_ [YZf aeAS V fZSf afZVde  
bdVg\_ ST`k Va` f ZShWegbbaeW WdVf agf fa Sdf [Ug`SfWfaVfZVd [ `cgVd[a` efZSf SdWdVd\_ adW  
WfS[W S V WUa\_ bSee[ Yi i ZSf i W\_ [YZf fhWadI

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; Wk [fVk fZ[ ] fZSf fZ[eVd[a` aXWglSf[a` kagidAbcbabae[ Y [ehVdV[XVdWf fZS Zai eLZaa`e  
SdWgegS`k La` WfhWz3` V; fZ[ ] [f bg`e\_ Wgb eZad fXadfZSf h

i [eZl fZagYZl fZSfi Wl VdWVfVdWbdWbdWfa g` WdS` V S V SbbdWfSWfZW\_ V\$ [ Y aXi ZSfi Se  
VdS [ Y gež l W\_ [YZfi a` WdSTagf Zai afZVde Sd[Ug` S W X SfgdW aX fZV[dV/bWUWaXTV] Y W  
agf S V Zai fZVW\_ [YZf eZai gei ZSfi [ agdV/bWUWd\_ [YZf Yg[Wgež 3e\_ S k ZShWSX[d\_ Wf  
fZ[e] [ V aXfWZS VZeZai [eSf fZWUWfWdaX Zg\_ S [fVdZ SaW [VdS^Vd [ Yž Egbbad[ Y egUZ  
Vd [ Y fZSf Wd[UZVd agdWgUSf[a` [ fZWeVa` V

hVok\_gLZf dYZf1 KagidWS\_gLZ \_adWfZagYZfXg^bVda` f fZW fZW kagidWadVWdž3` V; ]` ai f  
fZSfie` afi ZVdW\_L Ya[ Yž

I ZSf; l\_ eSk[ Y [efZ[ekag` Y DWW/S Vt kag ]` ai f; ` VVd\_ VVfZ[ekag` Yf fZ[ehVok kag` Y DWW  
S V [fie[ fVdVf[ Y fa ZVsdkag fS} STagf ea\_ WfaVk i Za XWf fZSf i WsdW[ fZW\_ [WVdX S  
W\_ VdWUkžF ZVdW VdVeaU[S^` ygef[UWd Se kag eSk WdGeja` d; ^ahWZSf i ad/ hVok)` ež3` V fZSf  
fZVdW Se VV[UWUk S V kag i S fW fa \_ S] WSV[VdWUWZKag ZSV TWa\_ W[ Xad\_ Wf La` UWd Wf  
S V La` UWd W fa La` fd[TgfWfa ea h[ Y fZW adViebdT^V\_ ežF ZVdW^eag` V dV^k YaaV S V hVok  
V[VdWf fZS kagfZ aX DaeWdSeZf ZVdVfcb` Yf VS YVdage[Y adS UWdYZf1

Ea kag La\_ Wfa BZ[† S V kag ZShWfZ[e [Wd fZSf kag i S f fa La` fd[TgfWfa Zg\_ S Xagd[eZ[ Y adfa  
ygef[UWfZdagYZ WgUSf[a` f i Z[LZ kag g` WdVfS V Se Slbg[e[f[a` ž3` V fZW ZWZVbek





Tge[ We fZSfie [ badS fi S V [f VaVe [fi Wz; fie gef` af fZW Za^fZ[ Yzi Z[UZ [e [f1 5ZaaeWkagd  
ba[ea` ZVW/DWVz

René Arcilla %,' )

8[cf aX S^; fZ[ ] kag S ei VdW fZWcgVf[a` tTW SgeW \_ VS t; i S f fa eSk S^fZdWVdYZf1 ; \_ VS t  
S^fZdWsdVSTea`gfVk dYZfz; ]` ai kagidW af Ya[ Y fa ^W\_ WVVSI Sk i [fZ fZSfz4gf kVd; Va` if  
fZ[ ] dZaa^ Y [efZW Za^fZ[ Yz; fZ[ ] i ZSfie\_ [ee[ Y [ dZaa^e[es S^fWf[a` fa fZ[e SdVd  
eVeWaxWgUSf[a` ti Z[UZ kag ]` ai ti WeLZaa^eUagVva STVfVd^aT aX fck[ Y fa SVdVezEa  
bVZSbea` Wax fZWfZ[ Ye fZSf dZaa^eUagV va i [fZ fZW[V S fZSf fZVidW afi fZW Za^fZ[ Y [eSk  
a] Sk \_ SkTW W Ww fa efdWYfZW \_ adWfZVbSof aXeLZaa^ Y fZSf SVdVezEa fZ[e SdVd eVeWax  
WgUSf[a` t bSd[Ug^Sd k [ bchYd\_ eaX [T VdS^Vsd [ Yz3` V fZW kag ]` ai t Sa` Yi [fZ fZ[eUa\_ V S  
dVSea` XadXgdZVd[ Y fZWUbf[cgWax S^fZWefgXX[ dZaa^e fZSf VaVe if eWV\_ fa TWdV S^k La` ` WfW  
fa V[fZVd Vsd [ Y adWgUSf[a` [ fZ[e SdVd eVeWax kag ]` ai t; fZ[ ] fZSf kVsz

Chris Higgins %\*,#\$

3 ^[YZfi ; i^W kag ZShWkagdUS] WS V Vsf [f faat S V S^ea eWVf fa ea\_ W^aVz; ^W kag ZShWS^  
fZdWS ei Vd [X kag fW^\_ W\_ adVSTagf fZ[e [V S aX kag d fZSf [ adVd fa \_ S] WeLZaa^ Y efd` YVd  
S V [ bSd[Ug^Sd fa \_ S] Wf ZWb geLa` ` Wf i [fZ fZ[eafZVd] [ V aX WgUSf[a` t dVg[dVd  
efdWYfZW[ Y [T VdS^Vsd [ Yz3` V; US [ SY[ Wea\_ Vd` WeSk[ Y fZWeLZaa^Ugdd[Ug^g\_ [eS  
dVWVf[a` aX fZWa^ V [T VdS^Sdfe\_ aWVZF ZSfie ZkVdVd kTavk ZSefa fS] Wea\_ W\_ SfZ[ ea\_ WZ[efack  
ea\_ WS YgSYW ea\_ WeU[WUWz; fieVW i Zk kag ]` ai ti ZSf V[V fZVd esk [ >Sf[ t **nessarainopore**  
**sm** SZVsfzk \_ [ V S V SZVsfzk Tavk1; fieVW i Zk i WZShWebadfe S V VdS\_ SzEa Va` if i W  
SdV S^k dZaa^i [fZ ea\_ VZ[ Y [ WfZW[T VdS^Sdfe [ \_ [ V1Ea i ZSf` WVe fa TW\_ bchW1 3` V Zai  
i agV fZSf ZWb ge YWTSU] fa kagdVd[bZS k STagf WgUSf[a` [eTW Y W agf1

René Arcilla %\*,#

I W^; fZ[ ] kag S V ; t; SydWfZSf S `af aX fZV S UfgS^bdSUF[UWax [T VdS^Sdfe WgUSf[a` faVSk ZSe  
TWa\_ W [ V aX efg^ [XW S V eUWaf[Lz kag ]` ai t; \_ VS t [fie fdgWfZSf i WLa` f[ gWfal kag ]` ai t  
[WVf]k Sb[WUWax Vsd [ Yi [fZ fZ[e [V S aX fZW[T VdS^Sdfe S V fZVdV e fZ[e dVd VgS^La` ` Wf[a` i [fZ  
fZWfcdV[f[a` z4gf; fZ[ ] fZSf kag ]` ai t a` WUagV \_ S] WS UseWfZSf i W^WsdrgST`k Xad^affW i ZSf  
fZWba[ f aX fZ[d S^SdVbSof aX fZWba[ f aX fZ[eVsd [ Y [eSTagfZ kag ]` ai ti ZW i WeSk fZSf fZW  
[T VdS^Sdfe SdVSTagf XdWVa\_ 1I ZSf Vj/SUf^k Va i W\_ VS Tk XdWVa\_ ZVdV

Eat kag ]` ai t \_ k bSd aXi ZSf; l\_ [ fVdVfW [ [d[e fck[ Y fa La` ` Wf i ZSf dW S] eaX agd  
La\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa [T VdS^WgUSf[a` ti [fZ fZW[V S fZSf fZVdV e ea\_ W [ V aX Xg` VS\_ WfS^WgUSf[a`  
Ya[ Ya` i [fZ fZSfie dafW [ ^Wf eVW i ZSf [f\_ VS e fa [fV S [XWi ZSf [f\_ VS e fa ZShWfZ[e fZ[ Y  
aX ge fZSfie TWV Y bg^W agf [ ea\_ W Sk adVdS` ` agfz3` V ea fZWZabV[e fa dVd[fS^] Wf S V  
dVZ[ ] Xch\_ fZWdag` V gb

Ygef kag ]` ai t g` [hVb]fk eW [ Sclaa\_eS V ead f aX foSV[f]a` S`Yad\_eTk eSk[ Yt a] Sk i ZSf [efZW  
Xg` VS\_ WfS`La` Wb]f[a` aX WgUSf[a` fZSf fZSfie Sf eS] WZVdW

Chris Higgins &#,&(

;f dW [ Ve\_ WbX ea\_ WZ[ Y 6 W Wk eSkd <aZ` 6 W W i ZVdWZWeSke fZSf Xad fZageS Ve aX kVScd  
bVab`W ag`V ZShWfZagYZf [f dV`k i VdV fZSf i W ag`V fck fa [ hWf S [ e]f]fgf[a` fZSf a` k  
WgUSfV`TWUSgeWS`Sf S`^ [ e]f]fgf[a` eWgUSfWS V eZSbWZg\_ S TW` YeS V Zg\_ S [X]` ea\_ W Skz  
3` V fZW ZWeS[V] W i adW]efZW [Xi WdWYa[ Yfa X`S`^ [ fa fZ[e] [ V aX S\_` Vd]S S V fZ[ ] fZSf  
fZVdWadW a` k fZSf [ e]f]fgf[a` WgUSfV` 4WUSgeW]fie fZWa` WfZSf fQVd fa Va [f ea e] Y`W\_ [ W`k ea  
i W a` if i S f fa ZShWfZSf ] [ V aX\_ kab[Sz DWWkV`SZ fZS ] eZ FZS ] kag ea \_gUZz; f i Se YaaV fa  
fS] fa kag STagf fZVdW]WSez

René Arcilla &,\$,%

FZ[e[eSYdV]f La` hVd]f[a` ž; i [eZ [f Lag`V Ya a` S V a` S V a` ž3` V aX LagdW]fi [^ 5Zd[e]dYZfz

Chris Higgins &,\$,\$+

KVd STea`gfV`kz

Samantha Ha &,\$,%#

A X LagdW]fi [^La` f] gWZabW`k faa i [fZ afZVdYa`]ei Za SdW]efW[ Yz: abW`k fZV`k ZShW  
\_gUZ XaaV Xad fZagYZfz FZS ] kag] DWW]adeZSd[ Y kagdfZagYZfei [fZ ge faVSz3` V fZS ] kag] 5Zd[e]d Xad SeSf Skd Se] [ Y fZWfagYZ cgVd]f[a` ež

René Arcilla &,\$,&(

KagdW]hV`k i WLa\_ V`

Chris Higgins &,\$,&)

FZS ]eXadZSh[ Y\_ V`

Samantha Ha &,\$,&+

Ea fZSfie fZWWV aX agdVd]eaW]adfaVSk STagf fZV`S`gd]S V\_ keV`k aX WgUSf[a` ž<a[ ge` V]f  
i W] i ZW i W WLa\_ W4VUS>ai WZSgbfi Za [eYa[ Y fa ZWb ge cgVd]f[a` fZWa\_ [ S f  
` Sd]f]hWfZSf eWd]fZ[e bS W] [UkV]Sda` k SeSkV]SdaX`Vd [ Y` aee Xadd]Zaa`UZ[VdW]ž3eSf Skd [X  
kag [ ] WágdbaVUSef i WZabWkag egTedd]TWa kag Va` if\_ [eeS Vd]eaW]EWMkag` V]f i W]ž