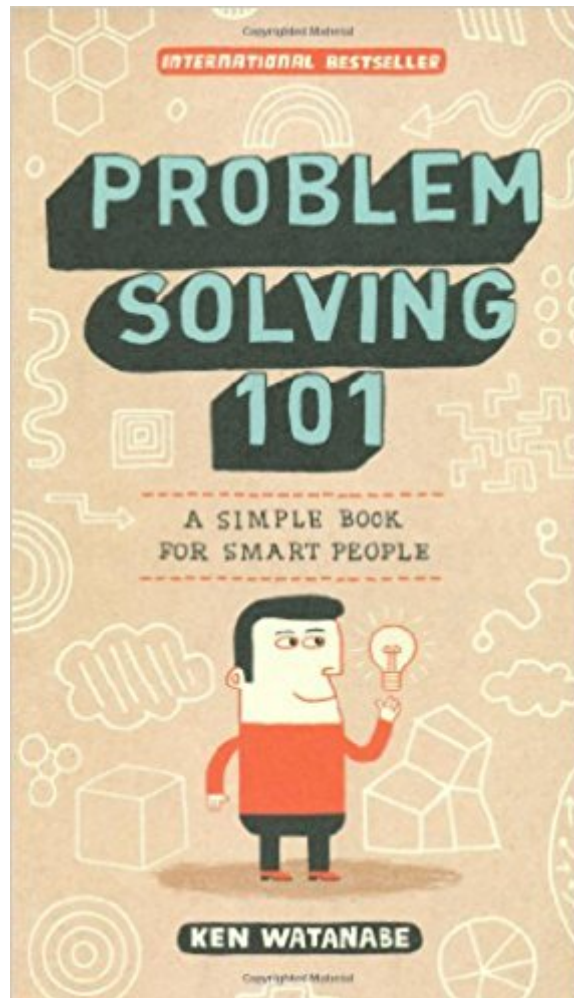**The book was found**

Problem Solving 101: A Simple Book For Smart People

Synopsis

The fun and simple problem-solving guide that took Japan by stormKen Watanabe originally wrote Problem Solving 101 for Japanese schoolchildren. His goal was to help shift the focus in Japanese education from memorization to critical thinking, by adapting some of the techniques he had learned as an elite McKinsey consultant. He was amazed to discover that adults were hungry for his fun and easy guide to problem solving and decision making. The book became a surprise Japanese bestseller, with more than 370,000 in print after six months. Now American businesspeople can also use it to master some powerful skills. Watanabe uses sample scenarios to illustrate his techniques, which include logic trees and matrixes. A rock band figures out how to drive up concert attendance. An aspiring animator budgets for a new computer purchase. Students decide which high school they will attend. Illustrated with diagrams and quirky drawings, the book is simple enough for a middleschooler to understand but sophisticated enough for business leaders to apply to their most challenging problems.

Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Portfolio; 1 edition (March 5, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1591842425

ISBN-13: 978-1591842422

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars   96 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #55,276 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #18 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Insects & Spiders   #54 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Social Philosophy   #99 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > History & Criticism

Customer Reviews

"Problem Solving 101Ã Â teaches us to recognize the common elements in the decisions we face every day and how to think carefully about them. It offers tricks and tips for every age. If I may offer one more suggestion: when you don't know which of two options to choose, toss a coin, and when it is up there in the air think about how you want it to fall, and you have your answer."--DAN ARIELY, author of the New York Times bestseller Predictably Irrational"This book made me angry. It made

me angry because there are so many people in this country who need to read it, who should read it, who will benefit enormously from reading it . . . and won't. They'll watch a reality show on TV instead. If everyone made decisions like Ken Watanabe, the world would be a better place."--SETH GODIN, author of Tribes"This is an excellent primer on problem solving."--LOWELL BRYAN, author of Mobilizing Minds

Ken Watanabe grew up bilingual in Japan and studied in the United States at Yale and Harvard Business School. He was a management consultant at McKinsey & Company for six years. He is now the founder and CEO of his own education, entertainment, and media company, Delta Studio.

This is an excellent book for introducing children to powerful methods and rules of problem solving. The book consists mainly of several engaging fictional tales that are well-written and could draw the attention of children or teenagers. Even for adults, it is useful to be aware of these systematic methods. I often see that problem-solving takes careful analysis and planning, skill and knowledge, innovation and creativity, grit and persistence. Where systematic methods can be particularly helpful is in analysis and planning. This book helps people take a first and important step toward becoming proficient problem-solvers. I highly recommend this book for children, and it may be helpful for older folk. It is certainly entertaining to read, while being informative.

Awesome book! Wish I had discovered this book when I went to college.The author is brilliant (wish we had teachers like him in every school)His teaching are priceless and he truly wants everyone to walk away a better person then they started.

fantastic book with a completely different approach that even kids will be able to understand. This book has got very logical steps that will help to understand problems and come up with multiple solutions to compare with.

I agree with Seth - everyone in America should read this book. Really.The author, Ken Watanabe, who is a former managerial consultant with McKinsey, has written a great primer on problem solving that is useful for business decisions, and everyday problems.The examples are written using kid stories, which makes it fun, and provide the tools to start making problem solving an everyday behavior in life.Some may complain that there is not enough depth, but they would be missing the bigger picture. It is not how much you are 'given' in a book, but rather how much is actually taken or

understood - the transference of knowledge. Watanabe's book provides the frameworks for everyday problem solving that can be applied from the simple to the complex, and that's what makes it worthwhile.Be a Problem Solver. Read this book.

A nice, short read. Describes the use of a few thinking tools that can be helpful in our daily lives and at work, packaged in a form of cute children stories. I particularly enjoyed the illustrations.The tools described includes:1. Logic tree and yes/no tree: a visual tool for identifying all potential causes of a problem2. Problem-solving design plan: a method that includes clarifying the issues you are trying to solve, stating your hypotheses, and listing the actions required to prove or disprove those hypothesis3. Prioritization matrix: plotting your solutions in terms of impact vs. ease of implementation4. Hypothesis pyramid: clarifying our argument before diving into data collection5. Pros and cons and Criteria and Evaluation: for evaluating multiple optionsSome of these tools I had learn in school or am using at work. Reading about them is a refreshing exercise.If I have one complaint about the book, it is its price. The Kindle version sold on U.S. is pretty expensive considering the length of the book. I finished it in about an hour.

Simple, fundamental book to guide readers through problems solving. More appropriate for students or new graduates entering corporate world. But is definitely not a reference for the ever complicated corporate world with complex problems. It will help to reset your thinking if you get lost in the complex problems, but do not expect any new ideas.

It is very easy, very readable and really practical to everyday situation that we face. The book gives us few techniques of problem solving with easy and funny example to understand even to kids. I wish I could learn earlier and give it a try to cope with problem. I recommend this to everyone, especially teachers who want to give their students a practical life book.

I am a student of economics. I want to enter to the competitive management consulting industry.I wanted to be prepared for the case interviews and all the firms recommend to have strong problem solving skills, so I searched a book to improve problem-solving skills.This book, supposedly written for kids, is one of the best guides for adults to acquire problem solving skills as the writer is an ex-McKinsey consultant. You can see how a real consultant thinks every-day-problems (i.e. why the attendance is low for a high school rock band and how to improve it).It's really interesting and I totally recommend it.

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