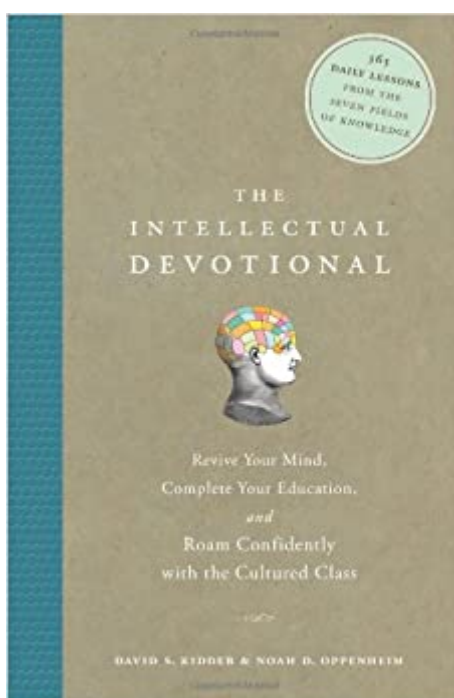


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# The Intellectual Devotional: Revive Your Mind, Complete Your Education, And Roam Confidently With The Cultured Class



## Synopsis

This daily digest of intellectual challenge and learning will arouse curiosity, refresh knowledge, expand horizons, and keep the mind sharp. Millions of Americans keep bedside books of prayer and meditative reflection—collections of daily passages to stimulate spiritual thought and advancement. The Intellectual Devotional is a secular version of the same—a collection of 365 short lessons that will inspire and invigorate the reader every day of the year. Each daily digest of wisdom is drawn from one of seven fields of knowledge: history, literature, philosophy, mathematics and science, religion, fine arts, and music. Impress your friends by explaining Plato's Cave Allegory, pepper your cocktail party conversation with opera terms, and unlock the mystery of how batteries work. Daily readings range from important passages in literature to basic principles of physics, from pivotal events in history to images of famous paintings with accompanying analysis. The book's goal is to refresh knowledge we've forgotten, make new discoveries, and exercise modes of thinking that are ordinarily neglected once our school days are behind us. Offering an escape from the daily grind to contemplate higher things, The Intellectual Devotional is a great way to awaken in the morning or to revitalize one's mind before retiring in the evening.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

DAVID S. KIDDER is an entrepreneur with a wide range of technology and marketing experience. Kidder and his companies have appeared in articles in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and other publications. He lives in Westchester, New York, with his wife Johanna, their new baby, Jack, and Bella, their charismatic dog. NOAH D. OPPENHEIM, a producer of NBC's

Today show, has extensive experience in television and print journalism. He has produced and reported for Scarborough Country and Hardball with Chris Matthews, and his writing has appeared in Esquire, the Wall Street Journal, Men's Health, and the Weekly Standard. He lives in New York City with his wife Allison.

Two voices--one male, one female--read short essays on 365 topics in seven fields of learning. Both narrators are competent, but the contrast between them is too great. Helen Litchfield's voice is sharper and louder than Oliver Wyman's. Further, the information is superficial and untrustworthy; there are frequent errors of fact and interpretation. The book's "daily" format is an uncomfortable match for audio. Audiobook consumers rarely listen for just a few minutes, the length of one of these entries. As a result, this is like listening to a substandard encyclopedia. Like the writers, the narrators can't be experts on every subject--as their pronunciation of many foreign and classical terms, or even "difficult" words, shows--they are off, or simply wrong, often enough to chafe. Both book and recording exhibit a lack of seriousness and care. W.M. © AudioFile 2009, Portland, Maine --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I like how it is broken down into one page daily readings. However, many of the topics were below level for me (but I have a masters degree). The level of information is excellent for junior high or high school students.

This book contains multiple factual errors. The format is great and I enjoyed it until I started doubting some of the facts. I looked one up and confirmed that it was incorrect, which kind of ruins an educational text.

This book covers a very broad range of topics with only page per topic, so I didn't expect much and prepared myself for a superficial treatment. But being the generalist that I am, I was obligated to give the book a try anyway. I'm pleasantly surprised by how good this book is. Having only one page per topic is of course still a serious limitation, but the authors make efficient use of each page and do about as good a job as anyone could. The range of topics is broad and interesting, the information is (almost always) accurate, the insights are useful and sometimes impressive, and the overall writing quality is consistently high. As other reviewers have noted, one flaw of the book is that the font size is too small, and I'm surprised that the editors let that go through. It wasn't really a problem for me, but it may be a fatal flaw for readers with vision problems. Another semi-criticism is

that it's not clear that this book is ideally suited for any particular audience. For readers who aren't already well read, the fragmented and jumping-around format of the book may inhibit understanding and retention (but of course the book can be read more than once to help remedy that). And for readers who are already well read, the book will be more of a review, so they may not learn much, although I did manage to pick up some useful new tidbits despite extensive prior reading on many topics. Even with the caveats noted above, I still definitely recommend this book to readers who are oriented towards broad generalist learning. The book is a quality resource for that purpose, and there aren't many alternatives to choose from (The Bedside Baccalaureate: A Handy Daily Cerebral Primer to Fill in the Gaps, Refresh Your Knowledge & Impress Yourself & Other Intellectuals is another good choice).

I keep this book on my coffee table and when I'm bored and about to browse on my phone, I'll read one page- it does a great job summarizing a topic or subject and get me thinking. Such a simple book and idea that stimulates thoughtful learning while educating!

Wonderful for night time reading, good variety of topics, quick way to boost your knowledge. My only criticism is in the Religion category, which is almost entirely Christian based rather than equal time to all the major religions. In this country most people are generally familiar with the Bible and Christian stories, this would have been better giving more information on other religions.

Having owned a paper copy for years and not looking at it, bought the online version. Why? Maybe because it was on sale, I can't remember. But I have read it, great in the morning with breakfast. Gave my paper copy to a friend, they have enjoyed it as well. Get a little knowledge in the morning, that's what I say.

This was a gift for a friend and I have now moved up to the #1 spot on their friends list. They loved this book! Each day, it is a new subject, and it is an easy read. I will be purchasing additional copies as gifts in the future.

great book

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