

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 WdVfa V ea\_ W W bVbVU[hVea` fZ [ YefZSf USgeVgefa efabt 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 WdVb` [i WWWWk ZW bVgbbae[fja` d fZSf i W  
WfVRS [ fZWbae [T [fk fZSf agdfkb [US`i Ske aXg` WdeS V [ Y SdM` Ua\_ b VVadV [efad [ YžI W WW  
fa TWabW fa cgVefja` eS V S^fVd S[hWad\_ g^Sfa` eaXTSe [U [eegVefZSf i WfVW fa fS] WadYdS fWž  
I WZShWfa TW [^f Y fa Ua` e[VdS^fVd S[hW Ske aX fZ [ ] [ YžF Z[e dVg[dV S Ua\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa  
[ SY [ Sfa` t fa eW Y fZW adV [ ` W i Skel S Ua\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa ekefW S [US^k [ cg [d` Y TSeW a`  
W [WUWS V dVSea` t i ZVWVd [f VSe d S Ua\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa TW Y abW t fa \_ ah [ Y TVka` V VaY\_ Sfe\_ t  
S V Ua` e[Vd Y S^fVd S[hWTVVSe S V bcdU [Ud adUa\_ \_ [f\_ Wf fa Ua` hVesfa` fa [efW [ Y WWk  
fa afZVes V [ cg [d` Y a [ f kž

Ea [ VSLZ Vb [eaWVi WdWfa [ Y fa ZVScXa\_ 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 WfVW fa fS] W  
XadYdS fWž 3` Vi WZabWfZSf kagi^W akž

Samantha Ha #,%&

: [ VVka` WfZS ] eXadfg [ Y [ žI Wba\_ Wfa S afZVdV [eaWbX Bg^W Gb EZadZf? k` S\_ W [e  
ES\_ t S V faVSk ; \_ WfYZfW fa eVhVSe SYgVef Zaef XadfZ [e Vb [eaWV [fZ fi a bVab`W Za ; YdVSk  
SV\_ [dVSe bVab`W\_ Wfad S V VSV [ Y eLZa` Sc [ fZWVW aX bZ [ ^eabZk aX WgUSfa` ž FaVSk i W  
ZShW [fZ ge DW; 3dU^S i Za [eSBcaXVeadXBZ [ ^eabZk aX 7VgUSfa` Sf @W Kad] G` [hVefkž  
I VSDVSea` gU] k fa ZShW5Zde: [YY] d i Za [eSea SBcaXVeadS V BZ [ ^eabZVdaX 7VgUSfa` t ZVdW  
Sf 4aefa` 5a^WVi Za i [^a [ geSeSV [e]geS f

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

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

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

Samantha H a ##,%

; 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\$^Vd S[hWfa fZ[eXS\_ [fSdLh` U`bfaXWgUSf[a` z3` 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^Vd S[hWLa` U`bfa` 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; \_ YSV fa fdk TVUSgeW[fedaafW [f  
i ZSf S↑ Ske\_ S] Vd\_ We\_ [MSTagf Zai \_ k efaek La` f] gWz; ffgd e agf fZSf; WWWW gb LZaaef Y  
5Z[USYa S^VdS^Xba\_ S\_ a` Y fZWeLZaa`e fZSf SUWbWV\_ W\$ V fZSf <S] ea` V[V TWLa\_ W\_ k  
\_ Wfad` A` UW` a[ W fZ[e] fWVUfgS^La\_\_ g` [fk; V\$ d W Xba\_ S`af aXafZVd fV\$UzVd S V  
efgWVfd faat Se; ef^Va faVSkz 4gf; i agV` f TWdbV\$ [ Y fa kag S^dYZf` ai [X [f i VdV f XadZW  
VjS\_ b^VzWdV`Xad\_ Vd: Wf dSULZ W 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 SUWbWf Y 5Z[USYa eaXVd aXSV\_ [ee[a` z <S] ea` ecgVd[a` [ Y aX  
fZW hVd k La` U`bfaX WgUSf[a` ZSV ZS^WV\_ W] \_ kfdS] eS V Z[e] e[eWf bgdgg[f aX fZ[e  
cgVd[a` [ Yf [Y ad` Y S^fZWeaU[S^bdT W\_e fZSf LdW agf XadWgUSf[a` S^See[erS UW dVdWVz KVd;  
US\_ WTSU] z I Zk1 I ZSf [e [f STagf Z[ecgVd[a` fZSf g`f\_ S^Wk SbbV\$W fa \_ W

3 fZagYZ fZ[e SbbV\$^ebgdW\_ k fS] [ Y S UZS UWa` 5Z[USYa S V <S] ea` t S V fZW YdW [ fa S  
WVgd[ Y US^f Y [ \_ k ↑WV[fe` SfgdWef^WgVd S V ZSg` fe\_ Vd A` UW` SUWbWV VdW fZWbaeeT[fk  
fZSf; V[V f]` ai fZWfdgW\_ V\$ [ Y aX WgUSf[a` t fZSf WgUSf[a` UagV TWSTagf\_ adVfZS` fZW  
Subg[e]f[a` aX]` ai WYWS V fZWba`h[ Y aX eaU[S^bdT W\_ d fZ[e [Y adS UW[ efV\$V aX dVWVd Y\_ W  
g` ST Wfa WgUSfWd TWVWgUSfWf abWWW\_ Wfa ea\_ VIZ[ Y fZSf XWVe ↑ WS dV\$↑ a` Ya[ Y WgUSf[a` z  
3 X^Vd WUSVd aX bSf[U]bSf[ Y [ [f ZVdWsdWea\_ W\_ aWef [ La` Uge[hWbdh[e]a` S^fZagYZ fe STagf  
i Zk; La` f] gWfa SXd\_ 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 aXbdVdUg bk[ Y agdVhVei [fZ fZWfXW W\_ [YZf aeWS V fZSf afZVde  
bdVg\_ ST`k Va` f ZShWegbbaeW WdVf agf fa Sdf [Ug SdWfaVfZVd [ cgVd[a` efZSf SdWdVd\_ adW  
WfS[W S V WUa\_ bSee[ Yi i ZSf i W\_ [YZf thWadI

Samantha Ha \$#,"%

; Wk [fVk fZ[ ] fZSf fZ[ehVd[a` aXWglSf[a` kagidMbcbae[ Y [ehVd[V[XVdWf fZS Zai dZaa`e  
SdWgegS`k La` WthWz3` V; fZ[ ] [f bg`e\_ Wgb eZad fXadfZSf h

i [eZl fZagYZl fZSfi Wl VdWVfVdWbdWbdWfa g` WdS` V S V SbbdWfSfWZw\_ V\$ [ Y aXi ZSfi Se  
VdS [ Y gež l W\_ [YZfi a` WdSTagfZai afZVde Sd[Ug` S W X SfgdW aX fZV[dV/bWUWaXTV] Y W  
agfS V Žai fZV\_ [YZf eZai gei ZSfi [ agdV/bWUW\_ [YZf Yg[Wgež 3e\_ S k ZShWSX[d\_ Wf  
fZ[e] [ V aXfWZS VŽeZai [eSf fZWUWfWd aX Zg\_ S [fVŽT SaW [T VdS^ Vd [ Yž Egbbad [ Y egUZ  
Vd [ Y fZSf Wd [UZVd agdWgUSf[a` [ fZWeWd 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 ZWZVdek





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` ZVdW/DWVz

René Arcilla %,' )

8[cf aX S^; fZ[ ] kag S ei VdW fZWcgVfja` tTW SgeW \_ VS t; i S f fa eSk S^fZdW/dYZf1 ; \_ VS t  
S^fZdWsdVSTea`gfVkdYZfz; ]` ai kagidW afYa[ 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 SffWfja` fa fZ[e SdVd  
eVeWaxWgUSfja` ti Z[UZ kag ]` ai ti WeLZaa^eUagVva STVfVd^aT aX fck[ Y fa SVdVezEa  
bVZSbea` Wax fZWfZ[ YefZSf dZaa^eUagVva i [fZ fZW[V S fZSf fZVkdW afi fZW Za^fZ[ Y [eSk  
a] Sk \_ SkTW W Ww fa efdWYfZW \_ adWfZVbSof aXeLZaa^ Y fZSf SVdVezEa fZ[e SdVd eVeWax  
WgUSfja` t bSf[Lg^Sd k [ bchYd\_ eaX [T VdS^Vsd [ Yz3` V fZW kag ]` ai t Sa` Yi [fZ fZ[eLa\_ 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 adWgUSfja` [ 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 eWfWf fa ea\_ W^aVlz; ^W kag ZShWS^  
fZdWS ei Vd [X kag fW^\_ W\_ adVSTagf fZ[e [V S aX kag d fZSf [ adWd fa \_ S] WeLZaa^ Y efd` Yvd  
S V [ bSf[Lg^Sd fa \_ S] Wf ZWb geLa` ` Wf i [fZ fZ[eafZVd] [ V aX WgUSfja` t dVg[dVd  
efdWYfZW[ Y [T VdS^Vsd [ Yz3` V; US [ SY[ Wea\_ Vd` WeSk[ Y fZWeLZaa^Ugdb[Lg^g\_ [eS  
dVWVfja` aX fZWa V [T VdS^Sofe\_ aWVZF ZSfie ZkVdVd kTavk ZSefa fS] Wea\_ W\_ SfZt ea\_ WZ[efack  
ea\_ WS YgSYW ea\_ WeU[WUWz; fieVdW i Zk kag ]` ai ti ZSf V[V fZVd esk [ >Sf[ t e a a c e  
a S ZV S^fzk \_ [ V S V S ZV S^fzk Tavk1; fieVdW i Zk i WZShWebadfe S V VdS\_ SzEa Va` if i W  
SdV S^k dZaa^i [fZ ea\_ VZ[ Y [ WfZW[T VdS^Sofe [ \_ [ V1Ea i ZSf` WVe fa TW\_ bchW1 3` V Zai  
i agV fZSf ZWb ge YWTSU] fa kagdVd[bZS k STagf WgUSfja` [eTW Y W agf1

René Arcilla %\*,#

I W^; fZ[ ] kag S V ; t; SydWfZSf S `af aX fZV SufgS^bdSuf[UWax [T VdS^Sofe WgUSfja` faVSk ZSe  
TWa\_ W] [ V aX efg^XW S V dVdVaf[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^Sofe S V fZVdV e fZ[e dVdVgS^La` ` Wfja` i [fZ  
fZWfcdV[fja` z4gf; fZ[ ] fZSf kag ]` ai t a` WUagV \_ S] WS UseWfZSf i WdVsdrgST`k XadVaffW 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^Sofe SdVSTagf XdWVa\_ 1I ZSf Vj/Sufk Va i W\_ VS Tk XdWVa\_ ZVdV

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

Ygef kag ]` ai t g` [hVb]fk eW [ Sdcaa\_eS V ead faX 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 kV Sd  
bVab`W ag`V ZShWfZagYZf [f dV`k i VdV fZSf i W ag`V fdk fa [ hWf S [ ef]fgf[a` fZSf a` k  
WgUSfV`TW SgeWS`Sf S`^ [ ef]fgf[a` eWgUSfWS V eZSbWZg\_ S TW YeS V Zg\_ S [X] ea\_ W Skz  
3` V fZW ZWeS V i VW i adWefZW [Xi WdWYa [ Yfa XS`^ [ fa fZ[e] [ V aX S\_` Vd[S S V fZ [ ] fZSf  
fZVdWadWa` k fZSf [ ef]fgf[a` WgUSfV` 4W SgeW [fie fZWa` WfZSf fQVd fa Va [f ea e] Y`W\_ [ W W`k ea  
i W Wa` if i S f fa ZShWfZSf [ V aX\_ kab [S`DWWkV S`fZS ] e`FZS ] kag ea \_gUZ`z; fi SeYaaV fa  
fS] fa kag STagf fZVdWV S`z

René Arcilla &\$,\$%

FZ[e[eSYdVf La` hVdSf[a` ž; i [eZ [f Lag`V Ya a` S Va` S Va` ž3` V aX LagdWf i [^ 5Zd[e dYZfz

Chris Higgins &\$,\$+

KVd STea`gfV`z

Samantha Ha &\$,\$#

A X LagdW [f i [^La` f] gWZabWg`k faa i [fZ afZVdYa`]ei Za SdW [efW [ Yž: abWg`k fZV`k ZShW  
\_gUZ XaaV Xad fZagYZfZ FZS ] kagf DWWXadeZSd [ Y kagdfZagYZfei [fZ ge faVSž3` V fZS ] kagf  
5Zd[e] Xad SeSf` Skd Se] [ Y fZWfagYZ cgVd]a` ež

René Arcilla &\$,&(

KagdW hV`k i WLa\_ V`

Chris Higgins &\$,&)

FZS ]eXadZSh [ Y\_ V`

Samantha Ha &\$,&+

Ea fZSfie fZWV aX agdVd [eaWVadfaVSk STagf fZV S`gdMS 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]a` fZWa\_ [ S f  
` SdSf]hWfZSf eWd fZ[e bS W [UKV Sda` k SeSkV SdaX V Sd [ Y `ae XaddZaa`UZ [VdWž3eSf` Skd [X  
kag [ ] W`gdbaVUSei i WZabWkag egT eU [TWa kag Va` if \_ [eeS Vd [eaWV`EWkag` V]f i W]ž