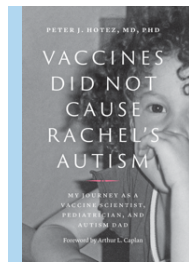


Discussion Guide



Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism
Peter J Hotez, M.D., PhD

Johns Hopkins University Press
2018
240 pages
ISBN: 978-1421426600

Vaccinations and
Immunizations

Summary

Dr. Hotez draws on his experiences as a pediatrician, vaccine scientist, and father of an autistic child. Outlining the arguments on both sides of the debate, he examines the science that refutes the concerns of the anti-vaccine movement, debunks current conspiracy theories alleging a cover-up by the CDC, and critiques the scientific community's failure to effectively communicate the facts about vaccines and autism to the general public, all while sharing his very personal story of raising a now-adult daughter with autism.

Questions

1. What did you already know about this book's subject before you read it?
2. The author aims to dispel the myths surrounding vaccines causing autism. Do you think he is successful? Why or why not? What makes his stance unique?
3. Dr. Hotez talks about the fact that he experiences cyberbullying as a result of his work and writings. Why do you think he is the target of cyberbullying?
4. There are currently 18 states that allow personal or philosophical exemptions to childhood vaccinations. What does the author say is the public health impact of parents not vaccinating their children?
5. Considering the science of vaccines, what, if any, is the author's call to action to readers — either individually or collectively? To other scientists? Is it reasonable? Idealistic? Achievable?
6. How are the issues controversial in today's culture? And on which side do you fall?
7. What specific passage or message struck you personally—as interesting, profound, or illuminating?
8. Share something new you learned from reading this book. In what ways, if any, did it broaden your perspective about this difficult public health issue?