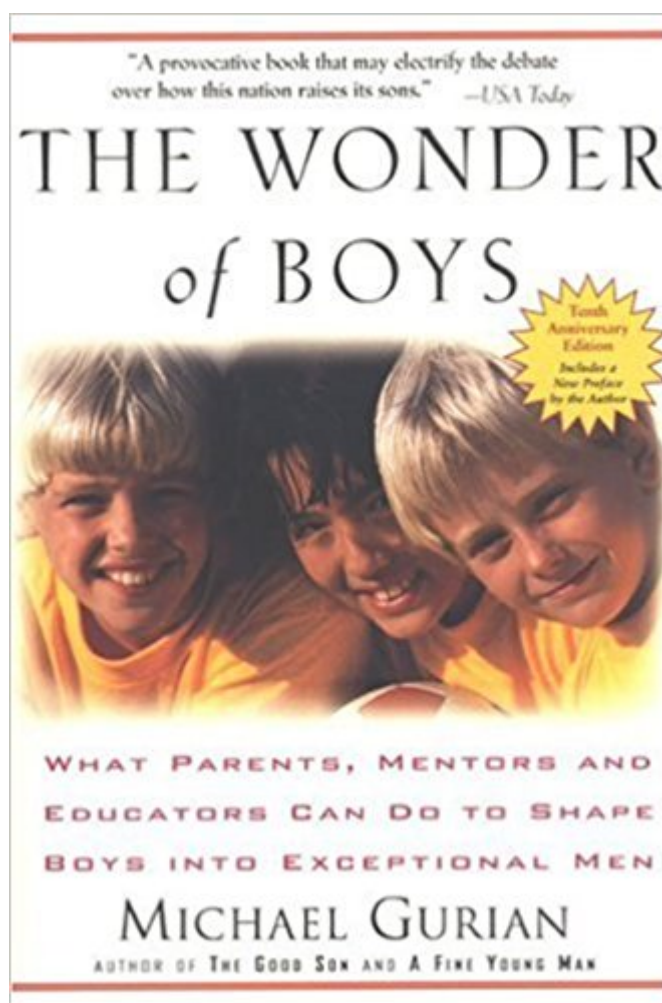


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# The Wonder Of Boys: What Parents, Mentors And Educators Can Do To Shape Boys Into Exceptional Men



## Synopsis

"THE WONDER OF BOYS is a provocative book that electrifies the debate over how this nation raises sons." — USA Today

In this insightful and practical book, Michael Gurian describes what boys need to become strong, responsible, sensitive men. Instead of encouraging us to stifle boys' natural propensities for competition and aggression, Gurian offers effective and practical guidelines for channeling them. He shows how the evils boys are susceptible to, including gang activity, sexual misconduct, and crime, become necessary outlets when positive role models and adult support are not available. Most important, Gurian explains what a boy really needs—a primary and an extended family, relationships with mentors, and intense support from his school and community—and details how we can provide these things for the boys we love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the thoughtful and provocative *The Wonder of Boys: What Parents, Mentors, and Educators Can Do to Shape Boys into Exceptional Men*, therapist and educator Michael Gurian takes a close look at modern boyhood. Gurian asserts that the biological and neurological differences between boys and girls need to be accounted for and nourished in order to raise healthy, happy boys. In discussing boy culture—and the roles of competition, aggression, and physical risk taking—the author concludes, "It's not boy culture that's inherently flawed; it's the way we manage it." If the natural, testosterone-based impulses of boys are squelched or ignored, Gurian posits, such biological truths may find their way to the surface in other, more negative behaviors. He suggests that boys do best when they are part of a "tribe," three families that include: a birth or adoptive family; an extended

family of friends, teachers, peers, and mentors; and the "family" of outside culture, media, religious institutions, and community figures. *The Wonder of Boys* offers advice on how to understand and build strong father/son and mother/son relationships, stresses the importance of healthy discipline, and suggests methods of teaching boys about sex, relationships, and spirituality. Parents and teachers of boys will find this book to be an insightful read. --Ericka Lutz --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Yes, boys and girls are different, says Washington state family therapist Gurian (*Mothers, Sons and Lovers*), urging that society learn how to deal creatively with gender-specific needs. In considering the cultural effects of heightened gender consciousness, Gurian warns of the dangers of "enmeshing male development with a female culture in transition." Outlining biological differences, he explains that boys are "hard-wired" to possess certain traits. Because of male brain chemistry and the hormone testosterone, boys are apt, for example, to relish risk-taking and to be physically aggressive and competitive (violence, he claims is not hard-wired, but learned through culture). What Gurian adds to this generally recognized background material is a persuasive summons to society, specifically parents, educators and communities, to unite to channel these traits in positive directions. Sports, for instance, allow competition but also teach responsibility. Work, nature study, music and spiritual pursuits are other positive channels. Gurian, who has also lived in Europe, Asia and the Middle East, suggests that we in the U.S. have grown away from beneficial rites of passage and toward "isolated, tremulous, family systems." In this shift, he contends, boys have been abandoned, and he urges that society reclaim responsibility for the moral and spiritual upbringing of young males, with guidance offered by elder mentors and support coming from extended family or community. Writing in a calm, compassionate voice, Gurian delivers a compelling call to action. 50,000 first printing; author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A fantastic book about the unique needs of boys, which sadly are often overlooked. This book was recommended to me by my son's pre-K teacher and I'm so glad I took her advice and read it. An excellent and informative read for anyone with sons. Or for that matter, anyone with nephews, brothers, husbands, etc.

Anytime a friend or family member has a baby boy I buy them this book. It is a wonderful resource for parents of boys and gives great advice on raising boys from cradle all the way to manhood.

I have a three year old Grand son who is active but usually under control. This book brings an excellent understanding of why boys function the way they are. I highly recommend this book for those who are involved with boys and adolescents to help foster a solid foundation to be a well functioning adult. Most of its evidence is based on scientific articles and there was little relating to anecdotal experience as being causal for there behavior, although anecdotes were used to illustrate a point. I found it very enjoyable to read.

Book was sent quickly and in good condition. Any parent that is looking to understand the nature of there boys this book will open your eyes. Looking for a book about understanding girls try the book The Wonder of Girls. Same author

Great book Every parent of a boy should have a copy of this book.

I have been a school counselor over the past 12 years and I recommend this book to all of my parents of boys. This book is just excellent. If you don't have a son, you'll wish you did!

I'm expecting my first grandson. My husband and I thought the info is a must for the family and for the community. It's that pertinent!

This excellent book makes a difference working with, or raising, boys.

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