Book: All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten

Reviewed by: Estela Yap

Level of Difficulty: Difficult

My thoughts about the book and its suitability for my group:

I fell in love with this book when I first read the 15th Anniversary Edition more than a decade ago. I’ve read it over a few times through the years. I was very positive it would appeal to the students as much as it had to me. It is an anthology of essays by Robert Fulghum. His thoughts on life, death, love, pain, joy and sorrow reflects our own journey through life. The title of the book and the author’s style of writing seem simplistic, but the book is really not that simple. It is loaded with information and wisdom. It is a book that immigrants like my students and myself can learn from. For instance, he talks a lot about the American culture and also a little bit of history and government. He has a great sense of humor making it easier to read the book.

Students’ reaction to the book:

They loved it!!! One student remarked, “I should have read this book when I first got here. I’m learning a lot about the American way.” There is a wide variety of topics in these essays which the students loved discussing. The themes about life and all its ups and downs resonated to each one of them. Most of all, the class appreciated the author’s sense of humor, and we all had a healthy dose of laughter each day we met.

Tips for other tutors who may want to use this book:

It’s a fun book to read. It looks simple, but I think it is for higher level students.