It S Not Easy Being Green And Other Things To Consider

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from the pencil to the puppet to the drone the humanities and the social sciences continue to ride a wave of interest in material culture and the world of things how should we understand the force and figure of that wave as it shapes different disciplines other things explores this question by considering a wide assortment of objects from beach glass to cell phones sneakers to skyscrapers that have fascinated a range of writers and artists including virginia woolf man ray spike lee and don delillo the book ranges across the literary visual and plastic arts to depict the curious lives of things beginning with achilles s shield then tracking the object thing distinction as it appears in the work of martin heidegger and jacques lacan bill brown ultimately focuses on the thingness disclosed by specific literary and artistic works combining history and literature criticism and theory other things provides a new way of understanding the inanimate object world and the place of the human within it encouraging us to think anew about what we mean by materiality itself

the public outcry for a return to moral education in our schools has raised more dust than it s dispelled building upon his provocative ideas in on becoming responsible michael pritchard clears the air with a sensible plan for promoting our children s moral education through the teaching of reasonableness pritchard contends that children have a definite but frequently untapped capacity for reasonableness and that schools in a democratic society must make the nurturing of that capacity one of their primary aims as fundamental to learning as the development of reading writing and math skills reasonableness itself

he shows can be best cultivated through the practice of philosophical inquiry within a classroom community in such an environment children learn to work together to listen to one another to build on one another s ideas to probe assumptions and different perspectives and ultimately to think for themselves advocating approaches to moral education that avoid mindless indoctrination and timid relativism pritchard neither preaches nor hides behind abstractions he makes liberal use of actual classroom dialogues to illustrate children s remarkable capacity to engage in reasonable conversation about moral concepts involving fairness cheating loyalty truthtelling lying making and keeping promises obedience character and responsibility he also links such discussions to fundamental concerns over law and moral authority the roles of teachers and parents and the relationship between church and state pritchard draws broadly and deeply from the fields of philosophy and psychology as well as from his own extensive personal experience working with children and teachers the result is a rich and insightful work that provides real hope for the future of our children and their moral education

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