

## Letters to a Young Scientist

By Edward O. Wilson



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Pulitzer Prize–winning biologist Edward O. Wilson imparts the wisdom of his storied career to the next generation.

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Edward O. Wilson has distilled sixty years of teaching into a book for students, young and old. Reflecting on his coming-of-age in the South as a Boy Scout and a lover of ants and butterflies, Wilson threads these twenty-one letters, each richly illustrated, with autobiographical anecdotes that illuminate his career—both his successes and his failures—and his motivations for becoming a biologist. At a time in human history when our survival is more than ever linked to our understanding of science, Wilson insists that success in the sciences does not depend on mathematical skill, but rather a passion for finding a problem and solving it. From the collapse of stars to the exploration of rain forests and the oceans' depths, Wilson instills a love of the innate creativity of science and a respect for the human being's modest place in the planet's ecosystem in his readers.

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#### Letters to a Young Scientist By Edward O. Wilson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #390390 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-04-15
- Released on: 2013-04-08
- Format: Kindle eBook

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From **Booklist**

\*Starred Review\* "What is this grand enterprise called science that has lit up heaven and earth and empowered humanity?" Wilson, a foremost authority on ants and biodiversity now in his eighties, has dedicated his life to this "culture of illuminations" in the field and laboratory and as a Harvard professor and best-selling writer. In his newest book, he offers candid guidance and profound inspiration to young scientists. "The world needs you—badly," Wilson writes, explaining that our very survival depends on our learning enough about life on earth to halt our deleterious impact on the biosphere. "Put passion ahead of training," Wilson advises, and don't let a fear of math stop you. Hard work and entrepreneurship, he assures readers, are more important than "native genius." Practical advice, reflections, and funny and dramatic stories of his own pioneering scientific adventures and breakthroughs make for an enlivening and affecting mixture of memoir, philosophy, and instruction that brings into focus the highest missions of science. Wilson's celebration of creativity and discipline, love for the living world, and commitment to explicating its wonders and fragility will uplift every reader, no matter her or his calling. Warm, sage, and compelling, this concise and mighty book of wisdom and encouragement belongs in every library. --Donna Seaman

#### Review

"Edward O. Wilson, the evolutionary biologist who has studied social behavior among insects and humans, offers advice to aspiring researchers...A naturalist at heart, he plays down technology, math, even intelligence, proposing that a good scientist should be 'bright enough to see what can be done but not too bright as to become bored doing it.'...delivers deep insights into how observation and experiment drive theory." (Jascha Hoffman - New York Times)

"The eminent entomologist, naturalist and sociobiologist draws on the experiences of a long career to offer encouraging advice to those considering a life in science... Glows with one man's love for science." (Kirkus Reviews)

"I want to express my gratitude. Thank you for reminding me and thousands of others why we became - scientists. Your book *Letters to a Young Scientist* is first and foremost a book about passion and the delight of discovery." (Bill Streever - New York Times Book Review)

"In this fund of practical and philosophical guidance distilled from seven decades of experience, Wilson provides exactly the right mentoring for scientists of all disciplines? and all ages... This is no pompous, deeply philosophical treatise on how great ideas develop. Wilson shares his simple love for ants and their natural history, revelling in them without hesitation. Everything else follows." (Nature)

"Inspiring... Ought to be on the shelves of all high school and public libraries." (Library Journal)

#### About the Author

Edward O. Wilson is widely recognized as one of the world's preeminent biologists and naturalists. The author of more than twenty books, including The Creation, The Social Conquest of Earth, The Meaning of Human Existence, and Letters to a Young Scientist, Wilson is a professor emeritus at Harvard University. The winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, he lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Tasha Page:**

This Letters to a Young Scientist book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Letters to a Young Scientist without we realize teach the one who reading through it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Letters to a Young Scientist can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Letters to a Young Scientist having very good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

#### Mary Olive:

Typically the book Letters to a Young Scientist has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was published by the very famous author. Tom makes some research prior to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after reading this article book.

#### **Margarito Rone:**

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