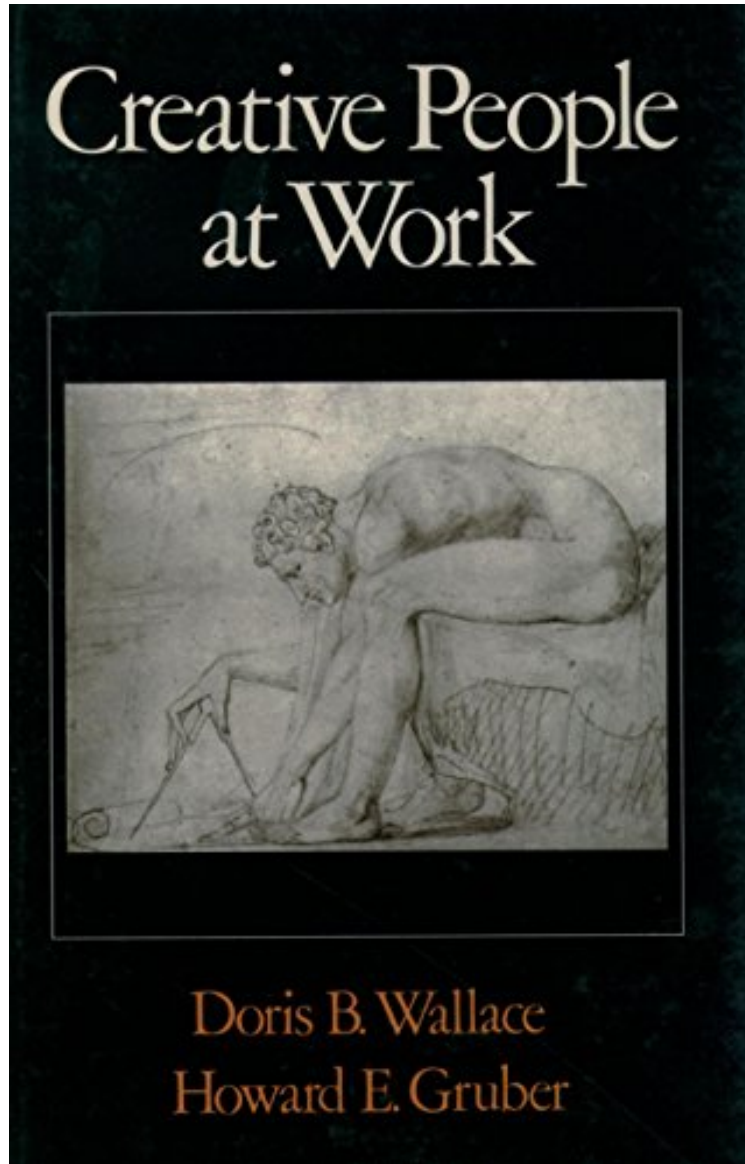


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## Creative People at Work: Twelve Cognitive Case Studies

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**From Oxford University Press : Creative People at Work: Twelve Cognitive Case Studies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creative People at Work: Twelve Cognitive Case Studies:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! Worth the Price, if you're seriousBy Free Press AdvocateInteresting approach and worth the price, if you're serious. The editors have invited, or collected, analysis and/or interpretation from a variety of writers so that each of the individuals discussed in the book is seen from the

perspective of a different "theory"--if you will--of creativity. As a reader, therefore, one has an overview of approaches to creativity. What sets this book apart is the opening text, written by the editors, about creativity and how the boundaries broken by creators differ according to the time in which the creator lived. They also maintain a respect for the mystery of creativity, and have interesting commentary on the successes and failures of different approaches that have been made in understanding it. I've read seriously about creativity and genius for the past 15 years; this is a book for the serious reader, which is a relief given the onslaught of books promising to make the reader "more creative" or books that fail to present creativity as a kind of dialogue among wild freedom, cool assessment, knowledge of and skill in one's field, and the metaphoric willingness to jump off a cliff and sometimes fail in spectacular ways and other times taking off.

To demystify creative work without reducing it to simplistic formulas, Doris Wallace and Howard Gruber, one of the world's foremost authorities on creativity, have produced a unique book exploring the creative process in the arts and sciences. The book's original "evolving systems approach" treats creativity as purposeful work and integrates cognitive, emotional, aesthetic, and motivational aspects of the creative process. Twelve revealing case studies explore the work of such diverse people as William Wordsworth, Albert Einstein, Jean Piaget, Anais Nin, and Charles Darwin. The case study approach is discussed in relation to other methods such as biography, autobiography, and psychobiology. Emphasis is given to the uniqueness of each creative person; the social nature of creative work is also treated without losing the sense of the individual. A final chapter considers the relationship between creativity and morality in the nuclear age. In addition to developmental psychologists and cognitive scientists, this study offers fascinating insights for all readers interested in the history of ideas, scientific discovery, artistic innovation, and the interplay of intuition, inspiration, and purposeful work.

"In the 12 case studies in this treasure of a book, various authors examine the critical, direction-finding moments in the work of such individuals as Charles Darwin, Jean Piaget, Robert Burns Woodward, William James, Anais Nin, and others. Each story is as different as each brain and heart, and all are fascinating." --Virginia Quarterly "Provides a detailed and fascinating look at the lives of individuals of unusual creative distinction . . . each one visible face to face, diverse witnesses to the protean development of human potential." --Scientific America "Wallace and Gruber dispel some popular misconceptions about adult creativity with case studies of the following individuals as adults: Lavoisier, Krebs, Faraday, Darwin, William James, Einstein, Piaget, R.B. Woodward, William Wordsworth, Dorothy Richardson, Anais Nin, and Melissa Zink . . . Recommended for all library collections." --Choice "The rich study of purpose in creativity that distinguishes Wallace and Gruber's *Creative People at Work*. . . informative and up-to-date about creativity. . . scientifically sound, with abundant references to both the scientific literature and the rich artistic background of the subjects." --American Journal of Art Therapy "The authors reveal the wonderful, subtle complexity of individual purposes as they interweave specific historical and societal frameworks. It is to their enormous credit that in treading where many others have gone before they break through accumulated clouds of mystification and obscurantism, not destroying the "grand mystery of creativity" but offering instead a perceptive examination of its actions, purposes, and outcomes. . . they never lose sight of their subjects as essentially everyday human beings engaged in an essentially human enterprise. . . offers critical reading for psychologists, philosophers, teachers." --New Ideas in Psychology "The value of studying creativity by closely examining the work of creative individuals is illustrated in this text. . . Will appeal to specialists in the field such as psychologists and educators, but the style is such that a broad range of individuals interested in creativity will find the text informative as well as a pleasure to read." --Imagination, Cognition and Personality "Gruber and Wallace are the theoretical and scholarly shapers of this volume and they ask at the outset: What do creative people do when they are being creative? It is to their enormous credit that in treading where many others have gone before they break through accumulated clouds of mystification and obscurantism, not destroying the "grand mystery of creativity" but offering instead a perceptive examination of its actions, purposes, and outcomes. It is even more to the credit of the authors of this volume that they never lose sight of their subjects as essentially everyday human beings engaged in an essentially human enterprise. Offers critical reading for psychologists, philosophers, teachers, and all those who know that to support creative action is first to understand it." --New Ideas in Psychology

About the Author  
About the authors: Doris B. Wallace received her doctorate from the Institute of Cognitive Studies at Rutgers University. She is a Senior Research Psychologist at Bank Street College of Education in New York, a family therapist, and a collaborator in an international study of children of the Holocaust. Howard E. Gruber was formerly Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Director of the Institute for Cognitive Studies at Rutgers University, and Professor of Genetic Psychology at the University of Geneva. He is currently Research Scholar at Teachers College, Columbia University.