



Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work

By Jean Anyon




Social Class

- **Ownership Relations – Capitalists, middle classes, workers**
- **Relationships Between People – Authority and control at work and society; decision-making**
- **Relations Between People and Their Work – Productive activity: mechanical; accurate and creative; conceptualizing and controlling**



Schools

- **Working-class (2)**
 - **Middle-class**
 - **Affluent Professional**
 - **Executive Elite**
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Hidden Curriculum

- Reproduction Theory - Ideology Critique
- Social Reproduction Theories - Bowles and Gintis (1976): schools serve to reproduce and maintain labor power to benefit *capitalists*
- Cultural Reproduction Theories - Bourdieu and Passeron (1977): the ruling class impose a social world order consistent with its interests. (*symbolic violence* in part reproduced by the oppressed that result in dominant culture reproduction)



Ideology

Located in Three Areas

- Sphere of the unconscious and the structure of needs
- The realm of common sense
- Sphere of critical consciousness

--H. Giroux, *Theory and resistance in education.*



Ideology Critique

- The need to identify tacit messages imbedded in day-to-day routines in school life;
- The need to uncover repressive interests or consequences that result in these routines;
- The need to interrogate inner histories and experiences.

Theories of Resistance

- Critical Reflection/Critical Pedagogues - study how embedded forms of injustice and inequality manifest in teaching and learning
- Study of *oppositional behavior* opens new perspectives
- Applying rhizoanalysis to deconstruct (analyze for political links) and reconstruct (create new/different understandings)
- From a rhizomatic perspective development in students requires complex explanations