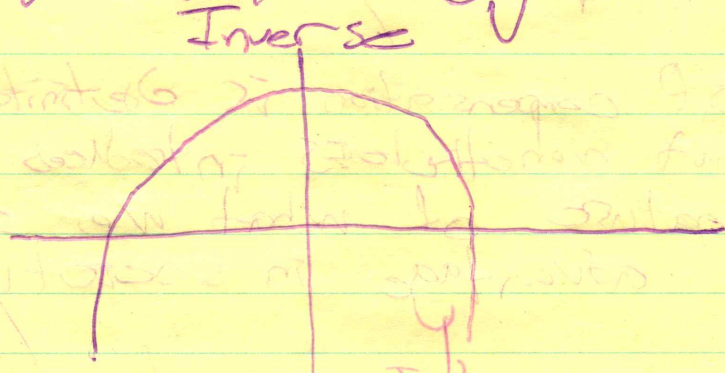


David And Goliath

- Malcolm Gladwell

David and Goliath explores what it means to have an advantage ~~to a~~ ~~sub~~ in an area of life and how societies perception of what, empirically, is an advantage may not be the case in a multivariate and complex world such as ours.

The premise of this book is that many of the advantages within society operate upon an ~~inverse~~ inverted U curved model



This can be modelled with something like $y = -x^2 + b$ where b would be the optimal 'amount' of the given attribute representing the highest efficiency.

Malcolm, investigates this misjudgement of advantages through exploring things such as Universities, private schools, power distance relationships, civil rights movements, and many other societal functions.

Malcolm talks about how individuals born with mental impairments are more likely to become overrepresented in some fields such as Entrepreneurship. He TBP especially prevalent with dyslexia. He goes on to theorize this is due to the fact, that in childhood due to having certain unique problems leading to the formation of compensatory patterns to excel in other aspects. An example of this formation presented in the book is of a litigation lawyer who used his listening acumen to become one of the top lawyers in the world.

This type of compensation is definitely a subtle edged sword, but nonetheless introduces the multivariate and complex nature of what we see as an empirical advantage in society.

These compensatory and Inverse U curve patterns also hold in subject areas such as legislation. A famous example of this is in the three strike policy of California. This law did not account for the complexities present within the incentive structures related to the act of committing a crime. In essence it was a monolithic ruling with the attributes and image of Goliath, but did not have the scalpel like precision and thoughtful acumen of David.