

AI-00215 Summary Far from the tree

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Summaries of the book far from the tree by Solomon

"Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity" is a non-fiction book by Andrew Solomon, published in 2012. It is a comprehensive exploration of the experiences of families with children who are different from them in some way, including those with disabilities, autism, schizophrenia, dwarfism, Down syndrome, and deafness, as well as those who are prodigies, transgender, or conceived in rape. The book examines how parents and children navigate these differences and how society treats those who are perceived as different.

The book is divided into ten chapters, each of which focuses on a different type of difference. The first chapter introduces the concept of horizontal identity, which refers to a sense of identity shared by people who have a common condition or experience, and how it differs from vertical identity, which is the identity that is passed down from parent to child. The following chapters explore the experiences of families with different types of horizontal identities and how they cope with the challenges that come with raising a child who is different.

Throughout the book, Solomon uses personal stories to illustrate the challenges faced by families, and he also incorporates scientific research to help explain the experiences of these families. He also examines the role of culture and society in shaping the experiences of families with horizontal identities, and he offers insights into how society can become more accepting and accommodating of those who are different.

Overall, "Far From the Tree" is a powerful and moving book that offers a unique perspective on the experiences of families with children who are different from them. It is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to better understand the challenges faced by these families and how they navigate them.

List 20 key lessons from far from the tree

Here are 20 key lessons from "Far From the Tree" by Andrew Solomon:

1. Differences are a fundamental aspect of human nature and should be celebrated rather than stigmatized.
2. Horizontal identities, or identities that are shared among people who have a common condition or experience, are distinct from vertical identities, which are passed down from parent to child.
3. Parents of children with horizontal identities often go through a grieving process as they come to terms with their child's differences.
4. Children with horizontal identities often experience discrimination and social exclusion, which can have negative impacts on their mental health and well-being.
5. Children with disabilities or chronic illnesses can have rich and fulfilling lives, but they need access to the right support and resources.
6. Autism is a complex condition that can manifest in many different ways, and it is important to treat each individual with autism as unique.
7. Schizophrenia is a highly stigmatized condition, but with the right support, people with schizophrenia can lead meaningful lives.
8. Dwarfism is a physical difference that can lead to social exclusion and discrimination, but many people with dwarfism have successful careers and relationships.
9. Down syndrome is often accompanied by intellectual disabilities, but people with Down syndrome can live fulfilling lives with the right support.
10. Deaf culture is a vibrant and distinct culture that should be celebrated and supported.
11. Parents of transgender children often struggle to understand and accept their child's gender identity, but with support and education, they can become strong allies.
12. Children conceived through rape may face additional challenges in their lives, but they are still deserving of love and support.

13. Prodigies are often highly gifted in one particular area, but they may struggle with social and emotional development.
14. Families with horizontal identities often experience unique challenges and may require specialized support and resources.
15. People with horizontal identities often find support and community through advocacy groups and other organizations.
16. Parents of children with horizontal identities can benefit from peer support and networking with other families facing similar challenges.
17. The medical profession has a responsibility to provide appropriate care and support for people with horizontal identities.
18. The arts can be a powerful tool for people with horizontal identities to express themselves and find community.
19. Parents of children with horizontal identities should strive to understand and accept their child's differences, while also advocating for their needs.
20. Society as a whole has a responsibility to be more inclusive and accepting of people with horizontal identities