
**About the author:** Michael Riera has worked with over 20,000 teenagers and parents in a variety of settings since 1983. He is the Dean of Students at Marin Academy in San Rafael, California. He also speaks nationally to parents and professional groups. [from the book jacket].

**Summary:** This book is written for parents who want to have a more fruitful parent-adolescent relationship. As the title suggests, Riera argues that conventional wisdom and "common sense" about parent-teen relationships are often wrong. Riera suggests that societal norms (such as emphasizing grades although grades may not be good indicators of the child’s learning), can create difficulties between parents and their adolescent children. He suggests that parents who connect with their teenager on a meaningful, less superficial, level are the most successful parents. Among the topics covered in the 22 chapters are drug and alcohol abuse, sex and romance, eating disorders, and teen friendships. Much of the information is presented in a highly readable question-answer format.

**Reviewed** by Marti Brown and Thomas Bentley. Brown, a middle-school teacher and parent of teens in DeKalb, IL. Bentley is a former graduate student in education at Northern Illinois University.