

PART I

A BRIDGE OVER AN EDUCATIONAL CHASM

This part consists of a single problem-solving chapter. The pain point is one of the shames of American secondary education—our high schoolers’ embarrassing international test scores. The remedy involves the cognitive gadget called executive function.

It’s a “let’s-roll-up-our” sleeves background for the rest of the book, which involves reimagining what a secondary educational experience might look like if optimizing teen brain development were its primary goal. And it all starts with a motorcycle, ridden by a man who didn’t even finish high school.