

A Framework for Understanding Poverty



CHAPTER 3

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Hidden Rules Among Classes



- Unspoken cues and habits of a group
- Distinct cueing systems exist between and among groups and economic classes
- Which hidden rules have the largest impact on achievement in schools?

Mini Quizzes



- **Could You Survive in Poverty?**

(I know how to move in half a day, I know where the free medical clinics are, I know how to get someone out of jail)

- **Could You Survive in Middle Class?**

(I know how to properly set a table, I know how to order in a nice restaurant, I know how to get a library card)

- **Could You Survive in Wealth?**

(I have at least 2 residences that are staffed and maintained, I fly in my own plane, I am on the board of at least 2 charities)

Reasoning



- If you fall mostly in the middle class, it is assumed that everyone knows these things.
- If you did not know many of the things from the other classes, the quizzes point out the things that each class takes for granted.
- The hidden rules of each class will affect the ways the members of the classes will make decisions.

Hidden Rules



	POVERTY	MIDDLE CLASS	WEALTH
POSSESSIONS	People	Things	One-of-a-kind objects
MONEY	To be used, spent	To be managed	To be conserved, invested
SOCIAL EMPHASIS	Social inclusion of people they like	Emphasis on self-sufficiency	Emphasis on social exclusion
FOOD	Did you have enough? Quantity.	Did you like it? Quality.	Was it presented well? Presentation.
DRIVING FORCES	Survival, relationships, entertainment	Work, achievement	Financial, political, and social connections

Differences Among Classes



- Many have difficulty moving up in classes because of the differences in the way money is managed in each class.
- Large variation in the number of tools available to each class & without the right tools, it is difficult to move up.
- How “the world” is defined to each class is very different. Wealthy (**international**), Middle (**national**), Poverty (**immediate locale**).

The School Setting



- Assumptions made about a child's intelligence may have more to do with their hidden rules.
- Students need to be taught the hidden rules of the middle class as a set of guidelines.
- The attitudes that students and parents show in the school are a part of their culture and beliefs.
- Educators must try to better understand poverty so as to better understand this group of students and parents.