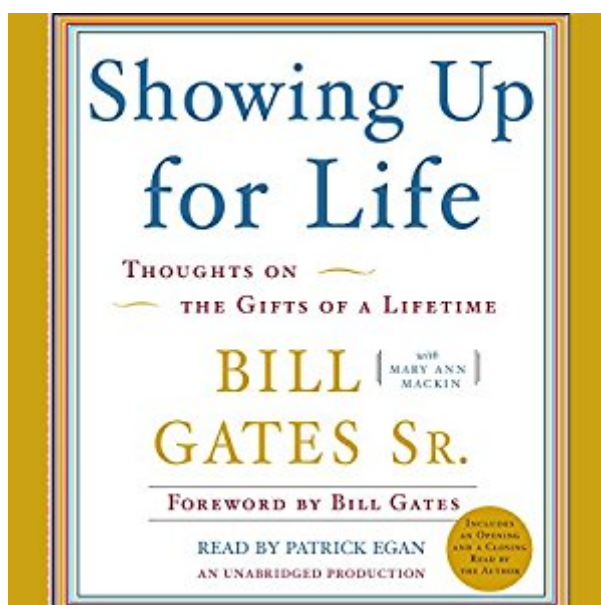


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# Showing Up For Life



## Synopsis

A heartfelt, deeply personal book, *Showing Up for Life* shines a bright light on the values and principles that Bill Gates Sr. has learned over a lifetime of "showing up" lessons that he learned growing up during the Great Depression, and that he instilled in his children and continues to practice on the world stage as the co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Through the course of several dozen narratives arranged in roughly chronological fashion, Gates introduces the people and experiences that influenced his thinking and guided his moral compass. Among them: the scoutmaster who taught him about teamwork and self reliance; and his famous son, Trey, whose curiosity and passion for computers and software led him to ultimately co-found Microsoft. Through revealing stories of his daughters, Kristi and Libby; his late wife, Mary, and his current wife, Mimi; and his work with Nelson Mandela and Jimmy Carter, among others, he discusses the importance of hard work, getting along, honoring a confidence, speaking out, and much more. *Showing Up for Life* translates one man's experiences over fourscore years of living into an inspiring road map for readers everywhere. As Bill Gates Sr. puts it: "I'm 83 years old. Representing the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and everyone who is a part of it has given me the opportunity to see more of the world and its rich possibilities than most people ever do. I never imagined that I'd be working this late in life, or enjoying it so much." --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 35 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: April 28, 2009

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00282MRYU

Best Sellers Rank: #166 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Philanthropy & Charity #1203 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Personal Memoirs #1306 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Social Science

## Customer Reviews

Every page of this wise, warm, and inspiring book is suffused with the qualities that have made Bill such a towering role model for thousands of his protégés, mentees, and students. His infectious empathy and compassion. His glass-three-quarters-full optimism. His integrity and value set. His humility and utter lack of pretension. Bill writes about the Gates family tradition of reading aloud with his children. My wife and I are now doing that with this book. Our hope is that Bill's wonderful stories and insights will help inspire in them the spirit of "radical generosity" which Bill attributes to his sister and so clearly applies to him better than any other human being I know. Especially at a time when our world feels unmoored, we desperately need leaders like Bill to inspire us to show up for life in the way he has--for his family, friends, employees, community, nation, and world. Showing Up for Life is a powerful vaccine against cynicism. When you read this book, you can't help but want to use more of the hundreds of quiet decisions you make every day to make a difference in the lives of others.

Bill Gates Snr writes a story that "humanises" Bill Gates Jnr, the competitor, as most of us know. Perhaps the father and son are very different characters; however the success of the future world's richest man can be traced back to the independent life and personal experience of his father. The life story of the author is as interesting, in my view, as the life story of Bill Gates Jnr. There is a flow in this story that connects parents' lives, ambitions and dreams to what will become a dominant figure in software industry and philanthropy. We all know from various stories what Bill Gates did during his early years, but we know much less about the parents. This book is a good read from a parenthood perspective. Both parents had a very hard time with Bill Gates Jnr and they handled the situation in a very smart way. If the father did not have an independent and positive life in his early years, with a rare opportunity to spend time with a great mentor, perhaps Bill Gates Jnr could have ended up as a rebel, competent and difficult successful manager or business man with good but not great achievements. The book provides a glimpse of the family life, tradition with ups and downs and with amazing successes and tragedy. The work of the family in the field of philanthropy is also inspiring. A good book with a great story that makes an interesting read for most people as this is not a book that discusses the merits of a particular operating system or technology.

I loved this book. It reads like a pleasant conversation with an affable, interesting, kindly man. Yet while the prose is simple and straight-forward, the underlying messages are deep and thought-provoking. Mr. Gates covers wide-ranging topics, from an intimate look at his roots and the roots of his children, to national issues of taxation, to global crises of health and humanity. While it is

not surprising to hear of a father's love for his children, I was struck by the open-heartedness Mr. Gates shows to extend that love to people in every walk of life around the globe. Throughout the book you find a very consistent picture of a man who puts his all into life, follows a strong moral compass, and cherishes every bit he gets out of life, from monumental milestones to the smallest touching word from a friend. He uses humor, color and candor through personal stories to make his points about what it means to be a parent, a spouse, a friend, and a citizen of the world. The book is a 'fun' read but also has that rare quality of leaving one thinking and inspired. Indeed, this is a man who shows up for life every day, and I believe the world is a much better place for that.

We're constantly bombarded with fictional and real stories of dysfunctional families. Here, finally, is a first-person history of three generations of a functional one. It's too late for many of us, but this book could be a lifeline for all new parents and those struggling to be good parents. It's neither preachy nor sappy, and in the span of three generations, we see the spectrum of good parenting from a family in the depths of the Great Depression to one with what might be considered an embarrassment of riches. The book captures both the ordinariness and the exceptional qualities of the Gates family. One exceptional quality is their ability to see themselves as ordinary people, and another is the exceptional quality of their family life. This is how we'd all like to think any "ordinary family" lives. The Gates's understand that the vast majority of families in the world never get to experience this most basic of human needs, and in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we see them acting on that knowledge. So much of child rearing today is focused on enrichment external to the family and often to its detriment. We read about well-educated "stay-at-home" moms who are so involved in their child-rearing responsibilities that they neglect their wider community ones and are so dominating their children's upbringing that the father doesn't get to play the important role Bill Gates Sr. played in his children's lives. In the right hands, this little book could revolutionize how we think about raising children to be successful in whatever they choose to do--but especially in parenting.

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