

## A Book Review: **What Color Is Your Parachute? For Teens**

Book authored by Carol Christen and Richard Nelson Bolles with Jean M. Blomquist

Richard Nelson Bolles is famous for his career guidance book, **What Color Is Your Parachute?** Bolles has carefully updated his book every year to address changing social and economic times. There have been over forty editions of Bolles' book since his first book appeared in 1970. Recognizing that teenagers have different needs than adult job-seekers, Carol Christen collaborates with Richard Nelson Bolles and Jean M. Blomquist in the compilation of **What Color Is Your Parachute? For Teens**.

Teens will appreciate this book's creative approaches to career exercises. For example, rather than taking a quiz, an imaginary party can give insights into personality types. Older teens can begin with the early chapters to determine favorite interests, transferable skills, favorite types of people, ideal work environment and potential dream jobs, since they often have more insights and life experiences. The authors recommend that younger teens begin at Chapter 12, *Beyond Your Dream Job, Creating the Life You Want*, since they need to gain some volunteer or job experiences before working through the career exercises. As information is uncovered and goals are set, **What Color Is Your Parachute? For Teens** provides the famous parachute outline so everything can be diagrammed on one page.



This book often includes step-by-step instructions so a new action is not intimidating and can be turned into a lifelong habit. Teens will learn how to request informational interviews and compose thank you notes. The book also has practical tips on social media, job shadowing, deciding whether to go to technical school or college, financing higher education, interviewing, landing a dream job and tracking emerging job trends. The examples are easy to understand and additional resources are listed throughout the book.

**What Color Is Your Parachute? For Teens** is one of those books that teens should peruse throughout middle school and high school. It is a perfect gift for special occasions since teens will want to reference it again and again.