



Preparing Students for the Workplace

Employability Skills Curriculum



- Self Awareness
- Conflict Resolution
- Goal Setting
- Self Esteem
- Problem Solving
- Feedback/Criticism

Work Search Strategies Curriculum



- Online work search
- Searching for work
- Resumes
- Cover Letters
- Interviews

Job Well Done Curriculum



- Job Retention
- First day guidelines
- Ethics at work
- Responsibility
- Taking Initiative

Includes 5 student handbooks.
Additional handbooks available for individual purchase.



Help Define Values and Discover Leadership Abilities

Presentations, facilitated discussions and interactive exercises to:

- Manage effective and positive change;
- Work in a team;
- Recognize how attitudes, behaviours and beliefs impact others;
- Discover inner strength and confidence



Improve Basic Banking and Budgeting Skills

Teach students about debt, savings, payroll deductions and more...

- Interactive online learning program;
- Training modules featuring true-to-life animated sequences;
- Exercises and quizzes;
- Annual access licenses.

ASPECT Curriculums include facilitator guides, lesson plans and interactive exercises

For full product details and to order online visit:
www.aspect.bc.ca
or call
(250) 382-9675
to order your free ASPECT catalogue



>>>

Cyberbullying Solutions for Schools

- Update your computer and Internet Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs) to include harassment done with mobile and wireless Internet information technologies. Work with your parent council to include the idea that members of the school community are responsible for their online behaviour and actions away from the school every bit as much as at school. There should be clear and serious consequences for anyone who doesn't follow the AUP that should be signed by both students and parents. The updated AUP should specifically prohibit the use of ICTs for cyberbullying.
- Make a commitment to educate teachers, students and parents about cyberbullying. Contact Bullying.org Canada and have us present information sessions for students, staff and parents about cyberbullying. Parents, teachers and students should be encouraged to read the information on the www.cyberbullying.ca website, so they will be informed about cyberbullying and related online behaviour issues.
- Amend anti-bullying policies to include text messaging, cell phone use and online bullying.
- Make sure parents know whom to contact at the school if there is a problem.
- Never allow a known incident of bullying to pass unchallenged without dealing with it.

Youth Solutions if being cyberbullied

- Do not respond to/engage in the abuse. Don't reply to messages from cyberbullies. This is exactly what cyberbullies want. They want to know that they've got you worried and upset. They are trying to control you, to put fear into you. Don't give them that pleasure.
- Do not keep this to yourself! You are not alone. Tell an adult you know and trust. It is very hard to solve such problems on your own.
- Inform your Internet, Instant Messaging or mobile phone service provider such as MSN for instant messaging.
- Inform your local police.
- Do not erase or delete messages from cyberbullies. You don't have to read it, but keep it—it is your evidence. Unfortunately, you may get similar messages again, perhaps from other accounts. The police and your ISP, and/or your telephone company can use these messages to help you. You might notice certain words or phrases that are also used by people you know. These messages may reveal certain clues as to who is doing this to you, but don't try and solve this on your own. Tell an adult you know and trust.
- If necessary get a new number or account, give it out one person at a time and keep a diary to record any abuse. Your tormenter may be closer than you think.
- Take a break—unplug.

We need to “walk the walk” of positive, respectful online communication and behaviour in our schools and not simply “talk the talk.” We need to strongly encourage teachers and students to become engaged in collaborative, international projects where there is a well established, mutually respectful online community with a solid track record in education.

One outstanding example of this is iEARN, the International Education and Resource Network (www.iearn.org). iEARN has over one million K-12 student and teacher members in over 110 countries, all of whom share iEARN's vision of “Connecting youth and making a difference!” Schools participate in projects that not only relate to curriculum, they also serve iEARN's vision of helping to make our world a better place in which to live. Visit www.iearn-canada.org for more information. Educators can join by registering online at <http://amity.iearn.org/peopleadd.lasso> There is no fee for Canadian educators to join. 🍁

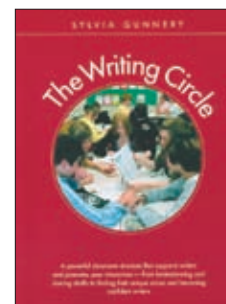


Guided Listening

by Lisa Donohue
Pembroke Publishers, 2007
ISBN 978-1-55138-219-7
\$24.95, 160 pp, adult
www.pembrokepublishers.com

Guided Listening “effectively links elements of oral language with independent reading through the use of metacognitive strategies.” It helps students become more proficient at understanding that reading is a “dialogue with text.” Providing a purpose for listening, and teaching students how to think, make notes, and discuss ideas, encourages them to engage in important conversations that help make sense of text that they listen to, read, and hopefully write. The listening strategies become independent reading comprehension strategies: making inferences, predictions and connections; reading between the lines; synthesizing; asking questions; visualizing; and determining important ideas. These strategies have been well developed by Debbie Miller (*Reading with Meaning*, 2002) and Harvey and Goudvis (*Strategies That Work*, 2000), but with *Guided Listening*, you have increased opportunities for oral rehearsal and making the strategies more focused. The mechanics of guided listening are introduced with procedures and lesson suggestions. Lists of appropriate titles that match strategies are given, as well as a number of graphic organizers that students can use to organize their thinking. The final chapter contains numerous rubrics and other assessment tools that can help teachers evaluate student performance. Today's curriculum has an emphasis on oral language, and this book will be helpful for teachers who want to integrate effective listening comprehension into their literacy teaching.

Reviewed by Betty Schultze



The Writing Circle

by Sylvia Gunnery
Pembroke Publishers, 2007
ISBN 978-1-55138-217-3
\$24.95, 96 pp, adult
www.pembrokepublishers.com

Writing Circles—groups of students who (with teacher guidance) observe, critique and coach each other—provide motivating factors through active student engagement and peer approval and review. It's a great idea, and what makes this book so powerful is that it tells you exactly how to organize writing circles and gives you numerous lesson plan ideas and activities that will ensure that your writing circles are not only well organized, but continue to be effective and fun. The author includes helpful suggestions for students and teachers to make thoughtful, constructive observations about the writing they are reading. It provides engaging activities that students can do to improve their analysis of their own and others' writing, and it has numerous ideas on how to get students to come up with themes that are meaningful for them when stymied by a blank page. Revision? There are so many interesting ways to make revision seem like an exciting challenge rather than a chore, that your budding writers will never be afraid of the “mess” that writing creates, and in fact will welcome it. Although this book is aimed at teachers who work with high school students, many of the ideas are appropriate for upper-intermediate classes. The blackline masters, easy-to-follow lesson suggestions and teaching tips will enable teachers to create a community of enthusiastic, working writers and the “polished and presentable” works that teachers and students can be proud of. This book is highly recommended.

Reviewed by Betty Schultze



Let's Clear the Air: 10 Reasons Not to Start Smoking

illustrated by Deanna Staffo
Lobster Press, 2007
ISBN 978-1-897073-66-7
\$16.95, 192 pp, b/w illustrations, ages 9 – 14
www.lobsterpress.com

What do I think about smoking? Smoking is bad for you! Smoking is bad for you! Smoking is bad for you! End of story. These are the words of 12-year-old Margaret, who along with other young people aged nine to fourteen tell their

stories and reasons for why they will never start smoking in *Let's Clear the Air*. This is a powerful collection of writings, and not at all preachy, because the over forty young people who contributed to this book are sharing personal information from their lives—not hypothetical or theoretical reasons, but real experiences. Adrienne explains that she will never smoke because her dad died of lung cancer when she was seven. Aanchal's grandmother got tongue cancer from secondhand smoke. Bianca says, *If your friends say you're not cool or are a chicken, change friends because no friend is worth it*, and goes on to list her ten reasons never to start smoking. It is hard to believe that today, when we know so much about the terrible effects of smoking on people's health, that people still choose to smoke, and that society as a whole tolerates the production of such a senseless, harmful product. But they do and we do, and so books like this are needed to counteract the still prevalent perception that smoking is cool. The stories are organized into ten chapters, each dealing with one reason to not smoke (e.g., illness, addiction, sports performance, cost, physical appearance, etc.) with supporting sidebars, "Fast Facts," comments from celebrities and illustrations. The book could be used as the basis of a ten-week course, with the teacher reading aloud parts of each chapter to begin discussion and then making the book available for students to read in between sessions. Or buy multiple copies and set up small groups to read and research each chapter and present what they learned to the class. Because it is in the words of young people, and the information is graphically presented with young readers in mind, this is a very useful resource for elementary and middle schools.

Reviewed by Diana Mumford



A School Like Mine: A unique celebration of schools around the world

DK Publishing, 2007
ISBN 978-0-7566-2913-7
also available in a translated Inuktituk edition
\$24.99, 80 pp, hardcover, colour photos, age 5–12
www.dk-canada.com

A School Like Mine is indeed a unique celebration of schools around the world. Each 2-page spread features a child from one country (31 countries are represented) from the six inhabited continents, and is laid up with about a dozen captioned photos to present visual and textual information about the child's school and life.

A map and general information precedes the entries for each continent. Curiously, there are three entries from the US, and the only Canadian entry is an Inuit school, hardly reflecting the majority of our population or schools. I wouldn't let this idiosyncrasy stop me from purchasing the book, however, because it really is a beautiful book and it illustrates both how different schools are around the world, and how much they are the same, helping to promote understanding of other cultures among young people. The Kativik School Board was so delighted with the entry about the Canadian school in Kuujuaq, that they worked with DK Publishing to produce a fully translated Inuktituk edition which is also available from the publisher. *A School Like Mine* is a valuable resource for elementary school libraries and could be used in classroom theme studies. Children could sit together and read and discuss the text and images (it is large enough to share) or teachers could use it to guide small group or class discussions.

A School Like Mine is a joint project of DK Publishing and UNICEF. For every copy sold, a contribution is made to UNICEF.

Reviewed by Diana Mumford

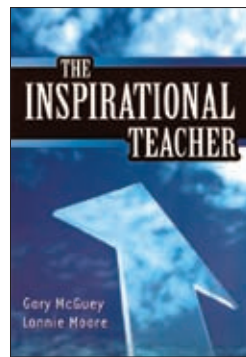
Reviewers

Betty Schultze is a retired teacher, literacy consultant and workshop presenter, who is the author of two books on strategies for beginning writers.

Diana Mumford worked as a teacher and teacher-librarian for twenty years before switching to her present career as an editor.

Naomi Wakan is an author, poet and avid reader who nurtures new writers.

Interested in reviewing? Contact: DMumford@CanadianTeacherMagazine.com



The Inspirational Teacher

by Gary McGuey and Lonnie Moore
Eye on Education, 2007
\$29.95, 130 pp, adult
ISBN 978-1-59667-065-5
www.eyeoneducation.com

The Inspirational Teacher provides straightforward advice about how to be the teacher your students will remember years later. It isn't about methodology, pedagogy or how to teach the content of your course or subject, but rather about maintaining an attitude of respect, modeling the behaviour you want to see, listening with your heart, and building trusting relationships. The authors suggest you begin by writing a personal mission statement that defines your purpose as an educator, then go on to create a classroom mission statement with your students at the beginning of each school year. These mission statements are the foundation of a process that results in you being an inspirational teacher who recognizes that teaching today is much more than disseminating information. The book is a quick read with lots of quotes and examples to augment the text. Teachers who are just beginning their careers and those who feeling a little tired and need a reminder about why they chose this profession will find it inspirational.

Reviewed by Diana Mumford



Red Lacquered Chopsticks

by Betty Warrington-Kearsley
TSAR Publications, 2006
\$16.95, 80 pp, ages 14+
ISBN 1-894770-331
www.tsarbooks.com

High school English teachers will welcome this book of poems spanning a Chinese childhood (in Singapore) and a Canadian present, with some Japanese images slipping in between. Betty Warrington-Kearsley draws her childhood images of markets, apothecary shops, tea-merchants so clearly that you can almost smell and taste the produce. Her Chinese scenes and legends, oddly enough, blend in quite smoothly with her Canadian landscapes. Chinese stories, a Zen legend, Canadian obituaries all sit contentedly side-by-side, while the rites of passage—births, marriages and deaths, rooted in her Chinese tradition are liberated from traditional ways of thinking about them, by her mixed upbringing. She respects and questions her inheritance, both at the same time, as in her witty poem, "Family Menagerie." As her father pointed out "You are not Eurasian. You are not half anything. You have inherited the best of both cultures." These accessible poems show clearly this double inheritance. *Red Lacquered Chopsticks* would be useful in classes in which the students are from many cultural backgrounds.

Reviewed by Naomi Wakan



Hannah's Story

written and directed by Juanita Peters
National Film Board of Canada, 2007
DVD-R 153C 9107 239
\$59.95, 29 min DVD, colour, ages 8+
www.nfb.ca

This documentary film features Hannah Taylor, who, at the age of five years, noticed a man rummaging in a dumpster near her home in Winnipeg. After learning that he was probably homeless and looking for food, Hannah couldn't stop thinking and worrying about him and others in similar circumstances, until finally her mother suggested that maybe if she did something to help, she would feel better. And so began the Ladybug Foundation which raises funds to help the homeless (www.ladybugfoundation.ca). Hannah is now eleven years old, and through her "Big Boss" lunches and other initiatives, her foundation has raised over one million dollars. The documentary shows Hannah speaking directly to the camera, at speaking engagements, and with one of her homeless friends in a shelter in Winnipeg. It is an inspiring story that shows what can be done when you are determined to make a difference. Students of all ages will be touched by admiration for Hannah and all that she has accomplished. A teacher's guide is available on the NFB website (www.nfb.ca).

Reviewed by Diana Mumford