



Eldridge, Deborah B. (1997). *Teacher Talk: Multicultural Lesson Plans for the Elementary Classroom*. Needham Heights, MA : Allyn & Bacon.

As the title suggests, this is essentially a collection of lesson plans. There are six chapters offering detailed plans, mostly in a social studies vein. One chapter incorporates multicultural themes into a study of meteorology, another is an independent reading list with brief follow-up activity suggestions, arranged by ethnicity. The lessons were all devised by practicing teachers for use in their own classrooms. Some include practical information about what went well and what problems arose in implementation. Grade levels range from 2-5. There is nothing revolutionary here, either in content or teaching methods, but it is a good, solid, well researched source of ideas for the time pressed teacher.

Pages: 236 Price: \$24.95 ISBN: 0-205-26762-9

Reviewed by Kate Corby, Michigan State University

Freedman, Eric, and Hoffman, Edward. (1997). *What to Study: 101 Fields in a Flash*. New York: Kaplan Books.

This handy guide to undergraduate college education provides a novel approach to career and college exploration. Over 200 of its 233 pages are devoted to brief descriptions of college majors. Each entry offers a quote from a famous practitioner; an overview of the field, including a discussion of current trends; listings of typical courses -- required, elective, and related; job prospects, additional readings and professional association contacts. The lists for additional reading were a real strength. The books suggested are not further discussions of careers, but well written, in depth explorations of a current aspect of the chosen field. The job prospects section is the weakest, offering one of five ratings of availability versus demand. To be really helpful, more information on types of jobs is needed to help students understand how a subject is used in the working world.

Introductory chapters address the whole issue of choosing a course of study and making opportunities to explore subjects of interest. Getting high school and entering college students to understand and explore their career opportunities is always a challenge. There is good advice here about getting out into the field and exploring broadly before making a decision. The introduction offers several examples of creative job hunting and career paths to further make this point. While one would not want to rely solely on this book for career exploration, it does offer a new and worthwhile approach.

Pages: 233 Price: \$18.00 ISBN: 0-684-84388-9

Reviewed by Kate Corby, Michigan State University

Meighan, Roland (1997) *The Next Learning System: and Why Home-Schoolers are Trailblazers*. Bramcote Hills, Nottingham: Educational Heretics Press.

Meighan offers a brief overview of the home school situation in Britain and the US. Much of the historical information takes a British perspective, but the research review and discussion of issues are very international in scope. The writing style is informal, and accessible, this is not a jargon filled tome. In the final chapter the author offers his vision of the future, incorporating the best from both of our current education systems. This section, like much of the rest of the book is peppered with quotes, often from well known sources, reconfigured here into a new and intriguing whole. Despite the brevity of the work, there is plenty of food for thought here.

Pages: 67 Price: \$13.95 ISBN: 1-900219-04-2

Reviewed by Kate Corby, Michigan State University

Whitin, Phyllis and Whitin, David J. (1997) *Inquiry at the Window: Pursuing the Wonders of Learners*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Inquiry at the Window is a case study of a year long inquiry into birds by the author and her fourth graders. This is not a chronological story, it is a multifaceted exploration of how birds became the source of new learning in a variety of areas including science, math, writing and poetry.

As might be expected, focusing on a single theme throughout an entire school year provided lots of opportunity for in-depth exploration. In the process, elements of inquiry are explained in a thoughtful way that makes the process both understandable and approachable. It is a complex topic, however, and an index or detailed outline of the themes of the book would have made it more useable.

Pages: 159 Price: \$21.00 ISBN: 0-435-07131-9

Reviewed by Kate Corby, Michigan State University



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