

# SAMPLE BOOK REVIEW

## Lesson Plans that Wow!

*Lesson Plans that Wow!: Twelve Standards-Based Lessons for Classroom and Art Teacher K-12* Ed McCormick with Stephanie Dyke and Jon Weiman Summit NJ: Teaching Press, 2007, 112 pp.

Lesson Plans that Wow! delivers an entertaining and perspective take on lesson plans which combine core curriculum with art. Written by Ed McCormick with two coauthors, this book is an excellent resource for students, educators, as well as home schooling parents. In reviewing this book, the principal criteria included content, organization, and reference sources.

Mr. McCormick's new book with contributions from Jon Weiman, and Stephanie Dyke, includes entertaining lesson plans for grade K-12. McCormick is both an artist and author and art materials manufacturer specializing in materials for mold making in fine arts as well as crafts. In addition, he is the managing director of the Association of Lifecasting International, an artist guild of almost a thousand artists worldwide.

The organization of Lesson Plans that Wow! into various grade levels allows the reader to easily select an appropriate lesson plan for a class. The book is divided into twelve lessons contained in three sections. Opening with a lesson for K-4 it follows with Grades 5-8 and then Grades 9-12. While it is impossible to thoroughly explore all topics, the detailed references contained in each plan provide sources for obtaining more information. This format spotlights key vocabulary, too.

Tested by real teachers in real classrooms, each chapter is really a two in one lesson as it provides cross curriculum teaching using art as the means to divine interest in the math, history or science of a particular lesson plan. Each chapter provides suggested teacher preparation exercises, list of materials required for the lesson as well as the appropriate national standard in which the lesson plan was written.

The orderliness of the book conforms to a traditional academic curriculum as each lesson follows a standard format that includes purpose of the activity; necessary preparation; required props and materials; process and procedure for implementation; instructional pointers and/or possible pitfalls; and tips to the teacher that provide "behind the scenes" insights. The authors provide good material and content which appears to make learning more appealing and fun to experience. Overall, the lessons are written in a readable and entertaining style.

### Summary

Lesson Plans that Wow! is a collection of significant learning experiences accented by the experiences of the three who designed and wrote them. The book's simplified organization and easy to follow full color photos plus examples helps to make the lessons come to life as something more than significant than the traditional classroom exercises. They also breathe life into what is considered by many to be dull subjects. The authors' enthusiasm for their topics is obvious throughout the book. If you really want to energize teaching and create class enthusiasm in the process, this is the book for you.

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