

Book Review

Mathematical Thinking in the Lower Secondary Classroom.

Edited by Christine Hopkins, Ingrid Mostert & Julia Anghileri.

Cambridge University Press, 2016.

ISBN: 978-1-316-50362-1

(spiral bound paperback with photo-copiable resources)

As someone working with many young teachers closely, I find the book *Mathematical Teaching in the lower secondary classroom* an excellent resource to conduct workshops. There are many benefits if you decide to use the book.

1. Covers all major content areas and concepts.
2. The activities use a range of teaching strategies providing variety in teaching.
3. Each activity is structured in such a way that all a teacher has to do is follow the sequence. The materials used in the activities can be easily procured or replaced with similar objects.

Some of my favourites from the book are:

The questions at the end of the activities help develop critical thinking. And only when the activity has been done will learners be able to answer the questions. For example, *String Stars* is an activity that encourages learners to discover the pattern and rules in pairs or in groups.

The connection between abstract sentences and concrete objects is explained very well in the Activity “Think of a Number” in Chapter 6 “From words to Algebraic expressions”

Another important aspect in teaching is to help learners build math vocabulary. Ideas for developing vocabulary and instructions are illustrated in the activities for 2D shapes. The activity *Made up “Photographs”* of Shapes can also lead to hilarious situations.

I really appreciate the effort that has gone into this production and will recommend this book strongly to teachers wanting to make a difference in their Math classrooms.

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