

Book Review

Mathematical Thinking in the Lower Secondary Classroom.

Edited by Christine Hopkins, Ingrid Mostert & Julia Anghileri.

Cambridge University Press, 2016.

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(spiral bound paperback with photo-copiable resources)

“ Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I may remember, Involve me and I learn.”- Benjamin Franklin

The book ‘ Mathematical thinking in the lower secondary classroom’ seems to be drawing inspiration from the above quote because it endeavours to ‘involve’ and ‘engage’ students in Mathematical learning. The best thing I liked about this book is that it has activities for everyone. Whether you want to involve a single child, a pair of children or the whole class this book comes to your rescue.

As a teacher, I believe that different children have different learning styles- visual, auditory and kin-aesthetic and this book has activities suitable for all these students. As a teacher I would definitely like to use ‘People Maths’ strategy in my classroom for teaching topics like types of angles, reflection and so on.

Also, I really appreciate the strategies the author has suggested for getting feedback. i.e. using thumbs up/ thumbs down and show me boards as it helps getting a quick feedback from the students in the middle of a lesson. The teacher can then pitch her lesson at a correct rigour based on the feedback.

As teachers, we often tend to ask closed questions in the class. This book subtly points it out and highlights the right kind of questions to ask our students which can promote mathematical thinking in our classrooms. The activities and discussion strategies discussed in this book, if practiced diligently by any teacher can help lay the foundation of a student led classroom.

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