**Ian Byrd’s Book Review of *Curiosita Teaching***

**A Framework For Creativity**

Written by Patti Garrett Shade and Dr. Richard Shade, *Curiosita Teaching* attempts to develop a system for teachers to build students toward creativity. The book uses a collection of great ideas from many great thinkers including Edward De Bono, Carol Ann Tomlinson, and Sir Ken Robinson.

Creativity and curiosity are dear to my heart, and I was encouraged by the large number of ideas offered in this book, especially the variety of sizes: quick ideas to implement immediately as well as big ideas to build a whole year around.

If you’re new to thinking about how to bring creativity into your classroom, this book will bring you up to speed on many concepts in the field and give you structure for incorporating creativity into teaching.

**Taking Inventory**

*Curiosita Teaching* opens with an inventory to give students. This is called a “Creative Multibilities Inventory,” and looks to evaluate the various levels and types of creativity across a classroom. This would be helpful to establish an early understanding of your students’ present levels. The “Multibilities” part of this inventory also reveals what’s to come next: analyzing creativity and breaking it down into elements.

**Models of Creativity**

In the next section, *Curiosita Teaching* unpacks the abstract idea of creativity using a variety of models. The authors explain the Elements of Creativity: fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration. They also introduce a “Creativity Fan,” which breaks creativity into seven components.

I appreciate the multiple models offered in this book for analyzing creativity and separating it into understandable chunks. As a teacher, these frameworks provide structure for an otherwise nebulous concept. I can see these also helping those students who shudder when asked to think outside the box. It gives them specific ways to stretch their thinking.

**Specific Supports**

The authors then dive into specific ways teachers can support creativity in the classroom. This includes developing classroom expectation for “Knock-My-Socks-Off” products. There is also a list of questions to help promote creativity, rules for successful brainstorming, and a list of “Kreativity Killer” phrases to avoid.

I found this section of the book the most useful as a grab-and-go resource for teachers. Ideas are segmented nicely, making it easy for teachers to implement one set at a time. I could easily see teachers developing a list of “Kreativity Killers” with their class while also collaborating on a list of phrases to encourage creativity.

**The Bigger Picture**

The next section of *Curiosita Teaching* looks at the larger picture of integrating creativity into instruction. While focusing initially on lesson planning, the authors go on to define a scope and sequence to help teachers purposefully introduce the many concepts outlined in the book.

In defining this scope and sequence, the authors continue sharing a wide variety of creativity ideas from many sources. These include:

* Think Tank: creative story-writing activity
* PMQ: Plus, Minus, & Question decision template
* Creativity Product Based Learning Units of study

The book wraps up with a discussion on assessing creativity, including both self-assessments and teacher-developed feedback.

**Handbook and downloadable PDF**

My copy of *Curiosita Teaching* also arrived with a matching *Handbook of Instructional Strategies*. While *Curiosita Teaching* is about looking at a larger framework, the Handbook delivers pre-made lessons, assessments, and activities.

The Handbook includes:

* Four “Learning and Thinking Style” Activities
* Seven flexibility and perception activities
* An entire unit on animation
* Activities to develop brainstorming abilities
* Four activities for creative and critical thinking

Plus, all of these activities come as downloadable PDFs. There are over two hundred PDFs to print and use in your class. This is a pretty awesome resource for teachers looking for specific ways to begin integrating creativity.

**Conclusion**

*Curiosita Teaching* is an ideal resource for someone beginning the journey to integrate curiosity and creativity with teaching. Drawing upon many works, this book synthesizes information, arranges it into frameworks designed for teachers, and offers resources for further research. The frameworks developed by the authors were my biggest takeaway, and the specific activities included in *The Handbook* are priceless for a busy teacher who wants to help their students increase their creativity.