

chalkboard

Chalkboard features textbooks, resource guides, and curriculum materials of interest to educators at the elementary and secondary levels. Recent journal articles and issues that focus on multicultural topics are also highlighted, along with news items related to the development of multicultural curricula.

Please send any news items, curriculum materials, teacher's guides, or ideas to Lyn Miller-Lachmann, 194 Lenox Ave., Albany, NY 12208. If you would like the items returned, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Aboriginal Art: How to Create It. Glenview, Ill.: Crystal Productions [P. O. Box 2159, Glenview, IL 60025-6159; phone: (847) 657-8144; web site: www.crystalproductions.com], 2005. VHS. 25 minutes. Color. ISBN 1-56290-351-9, \$29.95.

This resource for art classes at the elementary and middle school level features artist/educator Peggy Flores. Flores narrates the history of Australian Aboriginal art and begins her lesson with the creation of an X-ray painting. X-ray paintings show the internal structure—both the skeletal structure and the organs—of fish, birds, animals, and people. Flores directs students, step by step, to create a colorful X-ray painting of a fish's skeleton using metallic colored pencils and a black fine marker.

The second project is of a Dream painting. These are created with many dots, and the effect is to illustrate a scene from the natural world. Flores explains that in the Aboriginal culture the round dots reflect life forces, and she uses sticks, Q-tips, and a pencil's eraser to apply dots of various colors to her outlines of typical natural and village scenes.

Also appearing in the video are student-created X-ray and Dream paintings.

Bernabe, Marc. **Japanese in MangaLand 2: Basic to Intermediate Level.** New York: Kodansha [575 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022; www.kodanshaamerica.com], 2005. 208 pp. ISBN 4-88996-186-0, \$21.00 (pb).

Fans of Japanese animation—anime and manga—who wish to visit Japan or just learn the language are the audience for this second volume in Kodansha's hip new language-learning series. The first volume, *Japanese in MangaLand*, which takes readers through a basic introduction to Japanese and common terms used in the popular comics, was published in 2004. The new volume picks up where the other one leaves off, with four "conversational lessons" among its 15 chapters. Vocabulary chapters are geared to tourists, with phrases to use at the airport, at the hotel, traveling within Japan, while shopping, and when giving and receiving. The remaining chapters cover elements of Japanese grammar—parts of speech, interrogatives, verb tenses, and expressions to indicate supposition and conjecture, for example.

In keeping with its overall *raison d'être*, the paperback is illustrated with the lively and detailed comics that have

gained worldwide popularity. Explanatory information is written in an informal style that should appeal to a youth readership. Space for workbook exercises appears in the form of dialogue bubbles. Appendixes include a compilation of kanji characters and a Japanese-to-English vocabulary index.

Barron's [250 Wireless Boulevard, Hauppauge, NY 11788; phone: (631) 434-3311] announces the January 2006 release of seven volumes in the Barron's Traveler's Language Guides. The guides, which were first published in Germany in 2003 and 2004 and translated into English in 2005, appear in sturdy tall paperback editions encased in protective plastic. All seven volumes begin with cultural tips and advice for travel preparations. The following chapters introduce vocabulary travelers are likely to encounter—or should know in case of an emergency. These include general words and phrases, personal contacts, getting around, traveling with children, travelers with disabilities, dining, sightseeing, sports terms, entertainment, shopping, and personal care and medical emergencies. Each volume ends with a basic introduction to grammar (most useful if the traveler already is familiar with the language and just needs a brush-up) and two-way dictionaries.

While all the volumes contain a brief guide to pronunciation at the beginning, the guide to German contains pronunciation for each word, and the guides for Japanese, Mandarin, and Russian offer transliteration. Curiously, the Russian guide also presents each word in Cyrillic script as well as transliterated; the guides to Japanese and Mandarin Chinese do not use the original script. The guide to Spanish contains a brief mention of customs in Latin America as well as Spain, but the Spanish is Peninsular and the bulk of the tourist information is geared to travelers visiting Spain (revealing the guide's European origins). The guide to French makes no mention of travel to Francophone areas of Africa and the Caribbean. Each volume sells for \$12.99; other bibliographic information is as follows:

Kimura-Hoffmeister, Fumiko and Hoffmeister, Gerhard. *Traveler's Language Guide: Japanese.* 288 pp. ISBN 0-7641-3208-3.

Livesay, Rupert. *Traveler's Language Guide: German.* 304 pp. ISBN 0-7641-3206-7.

Marini, Raffaella. *Traveler's Language Guide: Italian.* 284 pp. ISBN 0-7641-3207-5.

Ràfols, Josep. *Traveler's Language Guide: Spanish.* 264 pp. ISBN 0-7641-3210-5.

Sword, Jacqueline. *Traveler's Language Guide: French.* 288 pp. ISBN 0-7641-3205-9.

Von Rauch, Holger. *Traveler's Language Guide: Russian.* 312 pp. ISBN 0-7641-3209-1.

Wu, Shu-hsiung and Hoss, Ulrich. *Traveler's Language Guide: Mandarin*. 264 pp. ISBN 0-7641-3204-0.

Egan, Kieran. ***An Imaginative Approach to Teaching***. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass [989 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103-1741; www.josseybass.com], 2005. 251 pp. ISBN 0-7879-7157-X, \$24.95.

This volume, designed for in-service teachers, addresses ways that teachers can help students in grades K-12 to become more creative in their thinking. Increasing creativity, in the author's view, will engage students more in the learning process and restore the joy to teachers who may feel "burned out." Egan's "out of the box" approach is very much evident in this book, with its informal style (addressing the reader as "you") and chapter titles ("Chapter One and a Half," "Chapter Two and a Half," and so on), to indicate the classroom applications of his theoretical constructs.

The first chapter, "A Tool Kit for Learning," presents the basic elements of creative teaching in general—using metaphor, binary opposites, jokes and humor, mental imagery, rhyme, and more. He then narrows his focus to the elements of literacy teaching. Much of his approach centers on the theme of the hero, and he adapts lessons on heroes to a variety of age levels. Examples are drawn from diverse cultures and time periods. The third chapter centers on theoretic teaching, and here his approach and examples seem most suited to the secondary level and higher. This is in many ways a challenging construct for both teachers and students, and readers might wonder if his unstated target is in fact students and classrooms designated as "gifted." Following the text are three frameworks for curricular exploration—mythic, romantic, philosophic—bibliography, and an index.

National Academy of Education. ***A Good Teacher in Every Classroom: Preparing the Highly Qualified Teachers Our Children Deserve***. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass [989 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103-1741; www.josseybass.com], 2005. 87 pp. Edited by Linda Darling-Hammond and Joan Baratz-Snowden. ISBN 0-7879-7466-8, \$20.00 (pb).

This brief report addresses the shortage of qualified teachers, especially in low-income urban and rural areas, and steps teacher education programs can take to improve the quality of those entering the profession (both undergraduate education students and mid-career entrants). The first of four chapters describes what teachers must know before they enter the classroom. Through text and graphics, the report argues that teachers must understand the increasingly diverse learners they will encounter, they must have a command of the subject matter they will be teaching, and they must know how to manage a classroom and assess student learning. The second chapter addresses how prospective teachers can learn what they need to know to be effective. The third chapter examines teacher preparation programs in light of what teachers need to know. Chapter four focuses on policy implications, ranging from accreditation of teacher training programs to ways that districts can recruit and retain new teachers.

The report concludes with notes, a bibliography geared to

educational leaders in school districts and in academia, and an index.

Umstatter, Jack. ***Readers at Risk: 160 Activities to Develop Language Arts Skills in the Inclusive Classroom***. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass [989 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103-1741; www.josseybass.com], 2005. 320 pp. ISBN 0-7879-7549-4, \$29.95 (pb).

Umstatter's curriculum guide focuses on basic skills in decoding, reading comprehension, vocabulary building, and writing for students at the high school level. Games and puzzles add interest, as do readings on topics popular among teens such as sports, comics, and rock and hip-hop music. The exercises address a wide range of ability levels.

The activities are designed to comply with state standards as well as to prepare students for college admissions tests. Following chapters on building words, making sense with words (using them in idioms, and using synonyms and antonyms, for instance), and improving reading comprehension in general, there are exercises to improve literacy skills across the curriculum. To that effect, Umstatter offers reading comprehension activities in math and science, social studies, biography and current affairs, and English literature. Included are reproducible worksheets and an answer key for all 160 activities. The table of contents describes each activity and its target grade level.

Wellstone Action. ***Politics the Wellstone Way: How to Elect Progressive Candidates and Win on Issues***. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press [111 Third Ave. South, Suite 290, Minneapolis, MN 55401; www.upress.umn.edu], 2005. 216 pp. Edited by Bill Lofy. ISBN 0-8166-4665-1, \$19.95 (pb).

Senator Paul Wellstone was a tireless advocate for working families, communities of color, and persons with disabilities.

until his death in a plane crash 11 days before his almost-certain reelection in 2002. His wife, Sheila, a leader in the fight against domestic violence, perished as well, along with their daughter and three campaign staffers. After the death of the Wellstones, their two surviving sons founded Wellstone Action to carry on their work and to train a new generation of progressive political leaders.

This guide and workbook is adapted from the resource manual given to the participants in Camp Wellstone, a three-day political training workshop held throughout the country (and which this writer attended in Boston in June 2004). *Politics the Wellstone Way* is geared to political candidates, their staff, and issue-oriented grassroots organizers. Individual chapters address preparation and planning; developing a winning message; building a base and attracting volunteers; communications via the media; field organizing, internal communications, and direct voter contact; budgeting and fund-raising; scheduling for electoral campaigns; get out the vote (GOTV); advocacy and grassroots lobbying; and sustaining progressive change.

Appendices include the "Wellstone for Senate 2002 Community of Color Organizing Plan" for Minnesota's Hmong community, a reproducible planning template, and an index. 