

Book title: Reflecting Teaching

Author: Andrew Pollard

Publication date: 2002

1. What is your overall impression of the book?

The book attempts to support trainee teachers, school mentors and all teachers of all experiences who wish to reflect upon their teaching. It tries to support new teachers understanding the contexts in which they work and the significance of what they do. It suggests the different aspects of teaching that can be reflected on and gives different strategies of how to do this.

2. Who do you think would benefit most from reading the book? What will they learn?

I think all teachers would benefit from this book as it is important to reflect on your teaching throughout your career. However I do think this book would be most beneficial to trainee teachers as they don't have as much experience to reflect on. So this book gives you guidance on what to specifically reflect on and how to use this reflection to improve your practice.

3. What did you think about the quality of the writing? Please consider the tone, structure and ideas. Does it suit the audience?

This book is very easy to read as each section looks at one particular aspect of teaching to reflect on. The language used is easy to understand so perfect for trainee teachers who won't have a full bank of knowledge just yet. The structure of the book is clear and also uses imagery and sub headings for further guidance.

4. Please discuss the research used to underpin the ideas. What evidence does the author use? Is it robust and up-to-date?

The focus of the book is Pollard's own work but he supports this with 5 people who assisted him to write the book. He also worked with a lot of teachers, head teachers and LEA advisors who discussed with Andrew Pollard the ideas that are contained in the book.

5. What did you learn from reading the book? What ideas/approaches/practice will you change or adopt as a result of reading this book?

From reading this book I have learnt a lot about reflecting on certain aspects of teaching and different strategies that can be used. Particularly I have learnt a lot about communication, independent learning and parental involvement. It has also made me think about the constructivism theory and how children develop their social, physical and intellectual needs.

6. Could you share a quote from the book that particularly resonated with you?

“Reflective teaching should be personally fulfilling for teachers but also lead to a steady increase in the quality of the education provided for children”

Pollard (2004)