



THE MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

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James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief

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Bethany's Bookshelf

Making Every Science Lesson Count

Shaun Allison

Crown House Publishing

81 Brook Hills Circle, White Plains, NY 10605

www.crownhousepublishing.com

9781785831829, \$18.95, PB, 144pp, www.amazon.com

Synopsis: Especially written for classroom science teachers of students ages 11 to 16, "Making Every Science Lesson Count: Six Principles to Support Great Science Teaching" by Shaun Allison (who started teaching science in West Sussex, before becoming a head of science, and is currently deputy head teacher at Durrington High School) goes in search of answers to the fundamental question that all science teachers must ask: What can I do to help my students become the scientists of the future?

Allison offers gimmick-free advice that combines the time-honored wisdom of excellent science teachers with the most useful evidence from cognitive science. "Making Every Science Lesson Count" is underpinned by six pedagogical principles challenge, explanation, modeling, practice, feedback and questioning and provides simple,

realistic classroom strategies that will help teachers make abstract ideas more concrete and practical demonstrations more meaningful.

"Making Every Science Lesson Count" also points a skeptical finger at the fashions and myths that have pervaded science teaching over the past decade or so such as the belief that students can make huge progress in a single lesson and the idea that learning is speedy, linear and logical. Instead, "Making Every Science Lesson Count" advocates an approach of artful repetition and consolidation and shows how to help students develop their conceptual understanding of science over time.

"Making Every Science Lesson Count" provides effective strategies designed to help bring the six instructional principles to life, with each individual chapter concluding in a series of questions to inspire reflective thought and help in the relation of content to classroom practice.

Critique: Real world practical in content, organization and presentation, "Making Every Science Lesson Count: Six Principles to Support Great Science Teaching" is very highly recommended for school district, college, and university library Teacher Education instructional reference collections. It would also be enormously useful for home schooling parents with respect to teaching the scientific method to their children. It should be noted for personal reading lists that "Making Every Science Lesson Count: Six Principles to Support Great Science Teaching" is also available in a digital book format (Kindle, \$9.99).

Susan Bethany
Reviewer