



The Jewish Education Center Of Cleveland's Óã-- a newsletter for educators

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May 12, 2000

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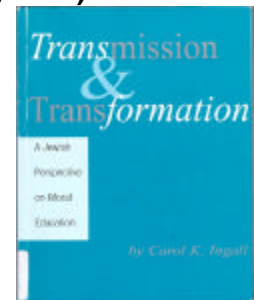
Summer Reading

Recommended Selections

New Trends In Education

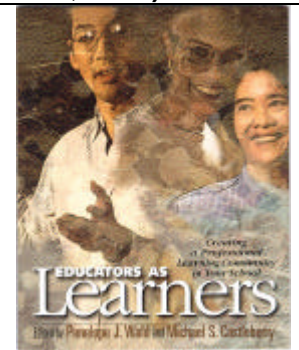
Transmission and Transformation: A Jewish Perspective on Moral Education,
by Carol Ingall (NY: The Melton Research Center for Jewish Education, 1999).

In a thoughtful, readable volume, Dr. Ingall offers a historical perspective of moral education in our general society and then delineates for educators eight elements of Jewish moral education. They are: excellences, environment, experience, expectations, explanation, examination, exemplars and empathy. With foundational information and a collection of Jewish texts that deepen the discussion and examples for educational settings, this book provides a framework from which educators may develop a curriculum that meshes with their school's particular philosophy.



Educators as Learners: Creating a Professional Learning Community in your School, edited by Penelope J. Wald and Michael S. Castleberry (VA: ASCD, 2000).

Our traditional image of teaching offers a lonely scenario – each teacher working in a separate classroom, with little other adult contact when conceptualizing curriculum or thinking about the big ideas of education. However, when teachers work collegially, and build a “learning community” within their school, students benefit from their shared learning. This book explains the concepts and assumptions that underlie learning communities, offers a process (with illustrative case studies), and then provides some very interesting staff development tools. This book is recommended for directors and teachers who may wish to shift their school's culture to a more collaborative one.

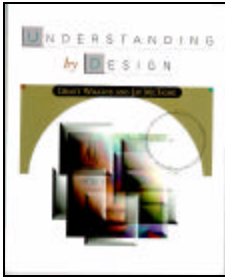


Education in a New Era, edited by Ronald S. Brandt (VA: ASCD, 2000).



Each year, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) publishes a yearbook on a timely educational topic. This year's volume takes a retrospective look at education over the past century, and offers a vision for the 21st century. Topics include professional development, curriculum, instruction, learning and assessment. While not “light reading,” this book offers an interesting perspective on developments in education and look toward the future. Teachers who wish to set direction for their own professional growth would find this volume's clearly worded overview helpful.

Understanding by Design, by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, (VA: ASCD, 1998).



While this volume and its accompanying handbook have been mentioned before in the pages of Óã -- it's worth mentioning again as summer reading. While the Understanding by Design (UBD) process has many elements that will be familiar to those who have written curriculum before, the backwards design model profoundly raises the stakes for education. Teachers who wish to try their hand at curriculum planning using UBD have an open invitation to make an appointment with the Curriculum Department to bring in their work for discussion.

-- New Trends in Education selections are reviewed by Nachama Skolnik Moskowitz, Director of Curricular Resources

Worth Mentioning: **The Ten Commandments of Good Teaching**, by Vickie Gill (CA: Corwin Press, Inc., 1998). A great motivational tool, this book will inspire a new teacher and help a veteran teacher remember why she began teaching.

Jewish Video Visions

During the summer months, the Ratner Media & Technology Center hosts Jewish Video Visions (JVV). This is a wonderful collection of over 300 full-length feature films, documentaries and children's videos divided by categories as diverse as comedy, drama, Yiddish, cooking, adventure and Israel. The films are available for personal enrichment, entertainment and holiday events. The JVV collection includes some of the latest releases: *Prince Of Egypt*, *Life Is Beautiful*, and *The Last Days*. During the school year, the JVV collection is available for long-term use by institutions, synagogues and schools. Large-screen presentation equipment is also available for rent. Please call the RMC at (216) 371-8288 for further information.

Teacher Center

Looking for some new ideas for the next school year? While it is challenging to find materials specifically aimed at the Jewish classroom, resources do exist that will inspire you!

The Teacher Center has many resource books full of ideas that are easily adapted to the Jewish classroom. Among them are Teacher Tips, by the magazine *The Mailbox*. Each of these two volumes contains a wealth of ideas for bulletin boards, crafts, lessons and activities. It takes only a little thought to adapt them to your specific environment.

Creating your project is quick and easy using our computer graphics programs, the Ellison machine and our extra-wide laminator. Please call Ronna Fox or Marci Rogozen, Teacher Center Co-Directors to set-up an appointment or to check Teacher Center hours.

Summer Hours
July-August 2000

Teacher Center
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00-3:30
Friday closed

Ratner Media & Technology Center
Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 - 5:00
Friday 8:30 - 4:30

Web Sites

Brain research is a hot topic in educational journals, conferences, and workshops. The new research into how the brain processes information is forcing the teaching profession to take a closer look at, and make changes to, the learning environment, teaching methodologies, motivational techniques, etc. These links to brain research web sites will pique your interest and, hopefully, lead you to further study.

- **Brain Connection** – <http://www.brainconnection.com>
- **The Brain Lab** – <http://www.newhorizons.org/blab.html>
- **The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives** – <http://www.dana.org>

For further brain research information, resources, and professional development courses, contact the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland and the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies.

-- Compiled by Maury Greenberg, Director of Technology Resources

Curricula

Brave new Worlds: Exploring Texts, Curriculum Resources Department of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, 1999.

Brave New Worlds: Exploring Texts are interactive learning centers that help upper elementary and middle school students understand the centrality of texts in Jewish tradition. Each learning center focuses on an exploratory theme, such as: space exploration, time travelers, detectives, and safari.



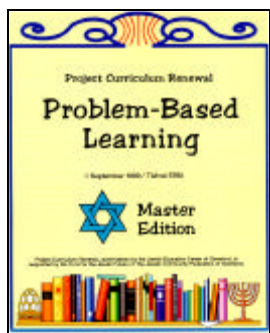
Students enter outer space to hunt (within their own building) for texts and famous teachers like Moses, Hillel, Rashi, etc. The students time travel to meet four local leaders who discuss personal connections to Jewish texts. In the detective center, students match texts to traditional books of our people (*Talmud, Siddur, Midrash Rabbah*, etc.). In a safari game, players move through the Jewish timeline, observing textual development through history while participating in group activities as well as individual tasks.

And, there's an In-The-Desert Cooking Center in which students "decode" Chinese food recipes by searching texts to find the ingredients (e.g., 1 ½ cups *Baba Metzia 93a*).

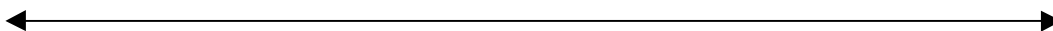
While instructions are in English, students need to be able to read Hebrew to succeed in this center (all text names are in Hebrew type). These learning centers are for rent. Please call the JECC to reserve dates for next year. The rental fee is \$15.00 with a \$.25 per student charge for materials. Only available for rental to local Cleveland schools.



PCR Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Curriculum, Curriculum Resources Department of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, 1999.



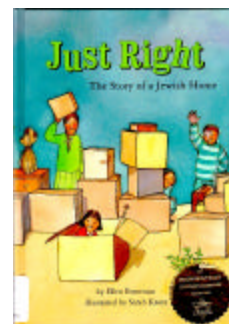
Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is a curricular model that empowers students as learners. This PCR curriculum was developed for an afternoon school and is easily adaptable to a day school setting. Students are asked to solve a problem by using Jewish texts, the internet, interviews, and other mediums. Four annual units flow around a given theme for each grade level (4-7). Teacher direction is given to help with facilitation. Local teachers may rent resource boxes filled with the hands-on materials. This curriculum is complimented by a Hebrew component. For Cleveland schools, the cost for this curriculum is \$50.00; the rental fee for a resource box is \$10.00



For Your Students

Just Right, by Ellen Emerman (NY: HaChai, 1999).

What makes a Jewish home "just right?" Rivkie's new house feels cold and strange until the little girl and her family fill it with *úáÙ* (Shabbat) candlesticks, Jewish books, their *חנוכייות* (*hanukiyot*) and, finally, *úáããî* (*m'zuzot*). This is a warm-hearted look at an observant family and how they welcome G-d into their home. Recommended for pre-school and primary grade students.



For Your Students, continues

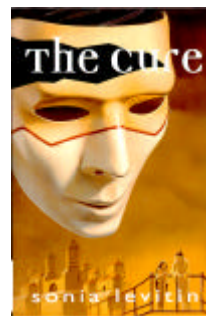
The Good Liar, by Gregory Maguire (NY: Clarion Books, 1999).



This riveting book asks the question, “Can a lie be morally justified?” Set in Nazi-occupied France, this story tells about some mischievous brothers and their furtive friendship with a lonely German soldier. While the brothers conceal the friendship from their patriotic mother, they later learn that she is concealing something of far greater consequence from them and everyone else around her. Can being a liar be a good thing? Recommended for elementary school students.

The Cure, by Sonia Levitin (San Diego: Silver Whistle/Harcourt Brace, 1999).

A chilling science fiction novel set in both the past and the future, this book explores themes of conformity and anti-Semitism. The main character is a boy who doesn't fit into a society that believes harmony and tranquility are achieved through conformity. As a cure for his individualism, he is sent back to Germany in the year 1348. There, as one of the persecuted Jewish minority of Strasbourg, he suffers the indignities and horrors of prejudice made more lethal by the spread of the Plague and the accusation that Jews are responsible for it. Recommended for middle school and high school students.



Other Recommendations

Pre-school & Primary:

- Noah's Trees, by Bijou LeTord (NY: HarperCollins, 1999).
- Perfect Porridge, by Rochel Sandman (NY: HaChai, 2000).
- Who's That Sleeping in My Sofabed? by Ruby M. Grossblatt (NY: HaChai, 1999).

Elementary:

- A Coat for the Moon and Other Jewish Tales, by Howard Schwartz and Barbara Rush (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1999).
- Chocolate Chip Challah and Other Twists on the Jewish Holiday Table, by Lisa Rauchwerger (NY: UAHC Press, 1999).
- The Kids' Catalog of Bible Treasures, by Chaya Burstein (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1999).
- Love from Your Friend, Hannah, by Mindy Warshaw Skolsky (NY: DK Ink, 1999).
- Streets of Gold, by Mary Wells (NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1999).

Middle School & High School:

- Dave At Night, by Gail Carson Levine (NY:HarperCollins, 1999).
- More Wandering Stars: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories of Jewish Fantasy and Science Fiction, edited by Jack Dann (Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 1981).
- Theo, by Barbara Harrison (NY: Clarion Books, 1999).
- Two Suns in the Sky, by Miriam Bat-Ami (Chicago: Front Street/Cricket Books, 1999).

-- These recommendations and book reviews are by Linda R. Silver, JECC Librarian

