

Harry Wong's book: best resource for new teachers

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001

From: Jane Jackson <jane.jackson@ASU.EDU>

Subject: Harry Wong's book: best resource for new teachers

Tom Gordon of New York, a retired Phase 1 modeler, left a phone message for me last week: he suggested that all new teachers in Modeling Workshops should be given Harry Wong's book.

To amplify Tom's recommendation of Harry Wong's book, below is an excerpt from an interview by Julie Peterson of Chicago, when she attended the introductory Modeling Workshop at Northern Arizona University in 2000.

Julie is a 2nd year physics teacher. Julie's Master's degree thesis at Northwestern University is entitled "Advice for the First Year Physics Teacher." Interesting interviews and advice!

Copied/pasted from Julie's web site: <<http://earthfuture.tripod.com/mp/adviceproject.html>>:

June 13, 2000

Flagstaff, Arizona

The three teachers being interviewed were in the midst of leading a workshop on teaching science. These teachers were chosen because of their excellence. Dave Thompson is the 1999-2000 NSTA National Science Teacher of the Year. Lynette Burdick and Ted Lyons are experienced master high school teachers, chosen for their success and the high esteem with which they are regarded by those in the science education field. ...

Julie: What are the best resources you would recommend to the first year physics teacher?

Ted Lyons: Mine is the green book. I didn't have a chance to see what the title of it was, but there is this really neat book and I'll give it to you.

Dave Thompson: Is that the demo one?

Ted Lyons: It's not physics, it's how to survive your first year of teaching, is what it amounts to. It's the best book, I think, for first year teacher type stuff that I've ever seen. It talks about class management. It talks about those things; it's really cool. I really like it.

Dave Thompson: There is a book that's very similar to that, its called "The First Days of School", by Wong.

Ted Lyons: That might be it.

Dave Thompson: It's about yea long.

Ted Lyons: It's about yea long, paperback, longer than it is tall.

Lynette Burdick: Harry Wong.

Ted and Dave: Harry Wong.

Lynette Burdick: Actually, he has a set of videotapes too that you can watch.

Dave Thompson: Excellent, excellent resource.

Lynette Burdick: For any teacher.

Ted Lyons: Especially for first year teachers.

Lynette Burdick: Yes, but they're really good for any teacher, because we can always use ideas too, and we don't admit it sometimes.

Ted Lyons: If I knew where mine was, I'd probably be using it.

Dave Thompson: I will show it to you because it's in my briefcase.

Julie: Other resources?

Dave Thompson: For physics, the modeling curriculum is a great resource, and the PRISMS curriculum. ...

I quote from Julie's thesis: " In 'The First Days of School : How to Be an Effective Teacher', Harry K. Wong and Rosemary Tripi Wong wrote a very practical and inspiring guide for new teachers. It was recommended by several of the participants in this study. Topics range from signs to hang in your classroom to discipline to motivation. Excellent."

Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2001 -

From: Julie Peterson <sciencejulie@HOTMAIL.COM>

Harry Wong's book did, indeed, turn out to be very useful to me in my first year, as was the advice of Ted Lyons, Lynette Burdick, Dave Thompson, Dan MacIsaac and Kathleen Falconer. I also owe thanks to you and all who work on the Modeling Curriculum! I have been heavily influenced by the Modeling Curriculum and plan to adopt it more in the future when I take a proper Modeling workshop. It's been a good influence!
