

Book reviews

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content-cramming science.

This delightful paperback book of year 1–7's children's poetry and colour images impresses by the vivid images, colourful layout and obviously detailed observation that have preceded the children's charming poetic musings. For example, in the section 'Ammonites':

The spinning ammonite  
The ammonite spins,  
Spins like sparks of rainbow colours  
When it rains and the sun is out.  
Red, blue and pink,  
Swirling a gold of light,  
A Catherine wheel.  
*Shannon Parfitt (year 3)*

The various paintings based on observed ammonite fossils really are striking and eye-catching.

As we shift to a more active *thinking* science curriculum we also seem to be rediscovering the need for children's interest in science to be generated through opportunities for *observation and reflection* on interesting and thought-provoking phenomena.

We know we must do better in making the way children learn and succeed in science more enjoyable. Appropriate creative activities in science lessons are almost certainly one of the keys to improving the quality of our work.

It is well worth spending the £7.99 to put this book on the table in the science staff room, pass around in science meetings or give to your key stage 3 coordinator to suggest observation and reflective creative activities in the scheme of work. In the words of a real Welsh bard: '*Fact is the departure lounge for all true adventure in art and science*'. (Gwyneth Lewis, first National Poet of Wales.)

*Terry O'Dea*

**See Saw – an anthology of poetry and artwork around science**

*Anne Osbourne, Jill Pirrie, John Nicholson, Ken Holbeck and Sally Hogden (eds). 63 pp. Norwich: The SAW Trust, 2005. £7.99. 0 9550180 0 5*

We are being encouraged as science teachers to find ways of more frequently introducing the higher thinking skills associated with the creative thinking and production processes into our lessons. We all know that aspects of thinking that are central to the rationale of *scientific thinking* depend on free – and often lateral – thinking, and are the antithesis of spoon-fed