

Home Grown Resources

The Time Riders' Code: novel
(ISBN 0 9581 7820 8) and
Teacher's Booklet (ISBN 0 9581 7823 2)
Changing My Mind: short stories collection
(ISBN 0 9581 7822 4) and
Teacher's Resource Book (ISBN 0 9581 7821 6)
by Judy Keen
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reviewed by Tim Sprod

Australian teachers seem to have a different attitude to teachers in some other countries. They are very resistant to “turn-key” programs: teaching material that sets out exactly what the teacher should do in lesson after lesson. Few Australian courses in schools are textbook driven. Rather, Aussie teachers prefer to use textbooks as resources, picking and choosing good ideas and incorporating them into their own schemes of work.

I have often thought that this explains two phenomena. Firstly, while they often recognize the richness of the Lipman novels and (especially) the supporting manuals, few Australian teachers have been willing to commit themselves to working through Harry, or Lisa, or Pixie, chapter by chapter for a whole year. Secondly, Australia seems to have produced a plethora of home grown materials for teachers who want to do philosophy

through the community of inquiry in their classrooms.

Many of these materials allow teachers to dip in and select what they will use and when. Phil Cam's *Thinking Stories* spring to mind, as do works by Colleen Abbott and Sue Wilks, Chris de Haan and her collaborators, Matthew del Nevo, Clinton Golding (actually a New Zealander), Michael Parker, Laurance Splitter and myself (a list of these works can be found at the end of this article). Now, Judy Keen has added two more excellent publications to this list, though they are quite different from each other in style.

Judy is, like me, a Tasmanian — indeed, we first met when we were both enrolled in Philosophy 1 at the University of Tasmania as undergraduates straight out of school. Judy went on to major in Philosophy and Psychology, and now works as a guidance officer in Tasmania's state education department. Over the years, our paths have crossed often, as we ended up living in the same suburb, attending playgroup and other community events with our children of roughly the same ages, and of course through our mutual interest in philosophy in schools.

Readers of Jen Glaser's web reviews in *Analytic Teaching* may well recognize Judy's name. She has, for quite a few years now, run the web based Owl Project “<http://ubertas.infosys.utas.edu.au/>” <http://ubertas.infosys.utas.edu.au/> — a site for school aged and younger children that includes philosophical activities such as the Philosopher's Tea Party. It is in her work for the Owl site that Judy first developed the material that is now published as *The Time Riders' Code*.

de Haan, Chris, McCutcheon, Lucy & MacColl, San, *Philosophy with Kids: Books 1, 2 and 3, plus More Ideas* (4 volumes) (Sth. Melbourne, Vic.: Longman, 1995).

del Nevo, Matthew. *The Continental Community of Inquiry*. (available free on the web at <http://www.philosophypathways.com>)
www.philosophypathways.com)

Golding, Clinton. *Connecting Concepts: thinking activities for students* (Melbourne, ACER Press, 2002)

Parker, Michael. *The Quest for the Stone of Wisdom* (Sydney: Scholastic, 1997).

Partridge, Francesca & Dubuc, Franck; Splitter, Laurance & Sprod, Tim, *Places for Thinking*. (Camberwell, Vic: ACER, 1999).

Sharp, Ann, *Geraldo* With separate teacher's manual *Discovering Our Voice*. (Camberwell, Vic.: ACER, 2000).

Sharp, Ann & Splitter, Laurance, *The Doll Hospital* With separate teacher's manual *Making Sense of My World*. (Camberwell, Vic.: ACER, 2000).

Sprod, Tim, *Books Into Ideas: A Community of Inquiry* (Melbourne, Vic.: Hawker Brownlow Education, 1993).

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