

# PANORAMA of EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS

An Old Educator's Views on Adventist Education  
JANUARY 2010

## **Creativity and Christian Education:**

The book, *EDUCATION* ([www.whiteestate.org/features/truedch1.asp](http://www.whiteestate.org/features/truedch1.asp)) gives Adventist teachers this definition of education:  
*True education means more than pursuing a certain course of study. It has to do with the whole person, and with the whole period of existence possible to human beings. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers.*

A little farther on she adds, “Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do. The men and women in whom this power is developed are those who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train young people to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other people’s thought...”

In a recent meeting with PA Conference Teachers, we talked about the importance of using creative arts in all of the curriculum and *the harmonious development of the mental and spiritual powers*. We discussed developing *the power to think and do*.

I referred to three video lectures that all teachers would do well to contemplate:

**Ken Robinson** says that children are born artists, but we educate it out of them, so that by the time they reach adulthood, very few are able to be truly creative and use that ability to think and do. [www.ted.com/talks/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html)

**Stuart Brown** tells us that play is vital to helping us develop *men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions*. [www.ted.com/talks/stuart\\_brown\\_says\\_play\\_is\\_more\\_than\\_fun\\_it\\_s\\_vital.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/stuart_brown_says_play_is_more_than_fun_it_s_vital.html)

**Gever Tuley** talks about five things he recommends you help kids do to get an education that *strengthens the character*. [www.ted.com/talks/gever\\_tulley\\_on\\_5\\_dangerous\\_things\\_for\\_kids.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/gever_tulley_on_5_dangerous_things_for_kids.html)

True education must do more than teach facts. It is our duty to teach our students *to think and do*. Creativity in education is not something we add in if we have time. We need to be developing this concept in every class.

Our students should have the ability to recognize true creativity and know some of the people who are accepted as artists in music, literature, the visual arts, etc. The following links will help you as you search for ways to develop this power.

**The Art Teacher Toolbox** [www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/links/toolbox/curriculum.html](http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/links/toolbox/curriculum.html) provides very useful thoughts on curriculum, assessments, activities, and best practices. It is highly recommend that you check this site as you plan. Take special note of the *Best Practices: 14 Principles for Good Teaching* and the *New Paradigm in Instruction*.

**Arts Integration** [www.neiu.edu/~middle/Modules/science%20mods/amazon%20components/AmazonComponents3.html](http://www.neiu.edu/~middle/Modules/science%20mods/amazon%20components/AmazonComponents3.html)  
This site is designed to develop a creative inquiry-based process of teaching and learning. It is very useful!

**Art Resources** <http://library.sjsd.net/artelm.html> Many resources for the teacher. Be sure to check the Mr. Picasso Head!

**Arts Attack** [www.artsattack.com/about\\_us.html](http://www.artsattack.com/about_us.html) The arts prepare students for using knowledge, ideas, and creativity.

**Resources for the Classroom** [www.free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject\\_id=1](http://www.free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject_id=1) You will find examples of the arts in various areas to use as examples in your classroom. The *Other Arts & Music* tab gives 29 very useful links to improving your teaching.

**Download and read FREE e-books on your computer.** [www.ebooksread.com](http://www.ebooksread.com) Although there are over 240,000 books to choose from, this is not a site to let students use. There are many very good books but, like a public library, there are also some that are not suitable for young Christians. An adult can download appropriate books for students to read on the computer.

**Using Poetry in the classroom** [www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/86](http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/86) This link list of many of the best known poems in education is of value to every classroom. Take a look at the other components available to using poetry in the curriculum.

## **END OF THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER**

That is enough for the January PET newsletter. I hope you found information you wanted to read, download, and/or use.

If you have any questions, comments, or complaints, send them to: [vaughn.jennings@yahoo.com](mailto:vaughn.jennings@yahoo.com)

You will find back issues of PET newsletters at <http://circle.adventist.org>

Additional information can be found on the PET Blog: <http://vaughnjennings.wordpress.com>

May you continue to realize the blessings God has for you as you minister to His kids, *Vaughn*

