

Reviews of *Drawing is a Class Act, Years 5–6*

Start (magazine published by the National Society for Education in Art and Design)

The last book in the series looks at how children leave schema behind and move on to drawing.

At Years 5 and 6 observational drawing is developed alongside narrative drawing as both have their place, just as notes or plans for written work exist alongside extended writing.

The next stage of children's drawing development is probably the hardest, writes Fabian. This is a crucial stage in drawing in which children need strategies to help them to succeed. If they are given structured support and some tips and techniques to help them through this stage, they will quickly realise that they can make good progress and achieve results that will satisfy and encourage them. This is what this book sets out to provide.

Judy Grahame, Consultant for Art and Design

I think this is going to be a really useful resource for teachers. I like the format – in particular the emphasis on key skills and the way they are introduced, revisited and consolidated. Teachers lacking confidence in art and design (and that's probably the majority in primary schools) will be able to use the activities off-the-peg or adapt them to suit their needs and will decide for themselves whether to work through them sequentially or pick and choose. I think they'll also find the suggested introductions very helpful. I've never been particularly keen to promote books which simply outline lesson after lesson, but this has a clear rationale and those teachers who take the time to read the explanations (in addition to simply using the ideas) will begin to understand and appreciate the need for progressive skills teaching. It's plainly written in a way that will be accessible to most teachers. I've shown the book to a few teachers now and I've had some very positive feedback. A primary school in Greenwich where I was working yesterday will almost certainly be buying a set – so that's a start!