

The Book Review

PROFESSIONAL READING

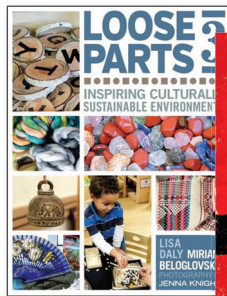
DALY, Lisa & Miriam Beloglovsky. *Loose Parts 3: Inspiring Culturally Sustainable Environments.*

photos by Jenna Knight. 296p. bibliog. illus. photos. Redleaf. Apr. 2018. pap. \$32.95. ISBN 9781605544663.

Aimed at educators who work with young children, this installment in the “Loose Parts” series explains how to use carefully selected physical materials to affirm and introduce cultural values. Pinterest-worthy photo spreads of California classrooms feature Mexican tapestries, “persona dolls” (for talking through social issues), and baskets of colorful stones, buttons, and shells. These, along with prompts, texts, photos, or art objects, create various “provocations” to open-ended play. Although the majority of the case studies are intriguing and draw on the work of antibias educators, there are some missteps. The authors suggest that setting out canes and leg and arm braces for kids to wear will help them learn what it’s like to have a disability. After a child expresses interest in Chinese writing, a lesson is offered on Korean calligraphy. Opportunities are missed for exploring questions of appropriation and cultural ownership and for suggesting best practices in settings where resources are limited. Despite these flaws, however, the book makes an important and convincing argument for deepening the “loose parts” concept through principles of culturally responsive teaching. **VERDICT** Educators seeking creative ideas for STEAM integration for children ages four and older are likely to find inspiration, but they may need to get creative about how to sensitively implement similar activities.—*Miriam DesHamais, Towson University, MD*

★ **DONALLY, Jaime. *Learning Transported: Augmented, Virtual and Mixed Reality for All Classrooms.*** 150p. photos. ISTE. Mar. 2018. Tr \$27.95. ISBN 9781564843999.

“How many students come home after school sharing that they walked around the solar system during class? How often do our students have the opportunity to create 3D worlds or hold holograms in their hands?” So begins this wild ride through augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and mixed



reality (MR). Donally briefly explains the differences among these technologies and describes their potential uses in classroom settings. She provides a list of factors to consider, compares devices, and discusses the benefits and drawbacks of Android and iOS. Her plan for successful implementation includes assembling a collaborative team and selecting classroom tools. Offering a scaffolded approach to experiencing and implementing AR and VR, she moves students from mere consumers of information to producers of content. This is an accessible and fun manual, with teacher-ready lesson plans that align to learning standards and links for further exploration. **VERDICT** A stellar resource for those curious about VR, AR, and MR.—*Corey Hall, Manheim Central Middle School, PA*

★ **LUHTALA, Michelle & Jacquelyn Whiting. *News Literacy: The Keys to Combating Fake News.*** illus. by Jacquelyn Whiting. 140p. bibliog. index. photos. Libraries Unlimited/Teacher Ideas. May 2018. pap. \$45. ISBN 9781440861529.

Fake news and “alternative facts,” the authors say, “distract us from a very real educational challenge: teaching students the skills and dispositions that make them careful and thorough researchers.” These useful, succinct, and scaffolded lessons help students become savvy consumers of digital and print media. The chapter “Big Takeaways” gets to the heart of the matter: fake news isn’t new, but social media’s influence is. Teaching students to judge the veracity of what they read on Twitter, Facebook, and other sites is vital. The

authors include many excellent websites, rubrics, organizers, self-guided checks, and quizzes, as well as additional lessons in the bibliography. While the lessons work for middle and high school students, elementary librarians can adapt them to their classes. **VERDICT** A superb road map for those teaching media literacy.—*Laura Fields Eason, Parker Bennett Curry Elementary School, Bowling Green, KY*

MOOREFIELD-LANG, Heather, ed. *School Library Makerspaces in Action.* 147p. further reading. index. websites. Libraries Unlimited/Teacher Ideas. Mar. 2018. pap. \$36. ISBN 9781440856969.

Moorefield-Lang compiles case studies of elementary, middle, and high school library makerspaces. Contributors thoughtfully detail a variety of makerspaces and discuss libraries with a range of budgets and scheduling types. Low-tech projects that use paper and glue are listed alongside high-tech ones that rely on Ozobots and Spheros. Sarah Justice describes how she developed a makerspace in her library after feeling less needed when her district went 1:1. At Phil Goerner’s high school, students teach one another to use devices such as 3-D printers. Gina Seymour explores how makerspaces can meet the needs of special education students and English-language learners. Some of the best entries focus on collaborations with history, English, and other teachers. **VERDICT** Whether readers are starting small or thinking big, they’ll find this a valuable resource for fostering critical thinking and creativity.—*Deidre Winterhalter, Oak Park Public Library, IL*

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