The Private Eye

(5X) Looking / Thinking by Analogy®

hands-on thinking skills, creativity, literacy & scientific literacy

Magnify Your Mind!

CCSS Literacy, CCSS Math, & NGSS Aligned

The Private Eye Brochure
PDF download version

www.theprivateeye.com
I’m very impressed. A really exciting set of tools... to bring out the gifted in everyone.

— Joseph Renzulli, Director, The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented

As you explore your own hand or peer into the face of a flower, as you land on planet amethyst, or study a strawberry, you’ll ask The Private Eye’s simple questions. (There’s no wrong answer!) And you’ll see beyond clichés to wildly inviting investigations.

Your loupe-observations (in the form of metaphors and similes) become “bones-for-poems,” nature journals, essays and stories—and serve as clues for hypothesizing, theorizing, invention, and design. Your loupe-drawings are investigations that move equally toward science and art, and inspire language development, math and more. Indoors or out, leaf by leaf—fall in love with the world.

Celebrating twenty-five years of magnifying minds, The Private Eye was founded by Kerry Ruef and piloted in the Seattle Public Schools. It’s been used by thousands of teachers, other professionals and parents—and over three million students. The Private Eye is for every learner: the so-called “regular student,” the Gifted, the At-Risk, English Language Learners and special needs students.

Start on Monday, use all year!
This book takes the reader on a journey of discovery that incorporates science, art, literature, and creative thinking. The author leads the reader through the creative process, quoting writers and scientists and presenting solid scientific research. Open, study, and explore this book and discover the treasures waiting within. —Dolores Choat, Science and Children (NSTA)

After looking through the book, I felt like I'd walked in the front door of heaven. What really impresses me is the scientific learning that you've built into observation, and the chance to draw. I think how you've tied thinking by analogy and theorizing with the loupe is spectacular. —Ann H. Zwinger, naturalist, author of The Mysterious Lands, Downcanyon

Explore the Book!


This best-selling introduction to The Private Eye program will propel anyone into worlds of wonder and intellectual growth.

You'll discover the drama and wonder of looking closely at the world, thinking by analogy, changing scale and theorizing—and how The Private Eye's simple "tools" produce "gifted" results.

• Learn how The Private Eye loupe (a magnification tool with an amazing difference) improves concentration and attention to detail
• Discover loupe-analogy-power and use it to vastly improve student (and adult) writing, drawing and problem solving
• See examples of student work
• Investigate 200 lesson plans, ideas and ticklers to enrich the five core disciplines

Whether you’re teaching science, language arts, art, math or social studies, you'll be amazed at how adults and students love the process: with a jeweler's loupe, everyday objects and The Private Eye Questions—you'll accelerate and magnify thought.
Everyday at The Private Eye Store:
Loupes, Books, Posters, Kits and more! Take a stroll ...
www.theprivateeyestore.com

“What a fantastically successful and effective program! I'm tremendously impressed. It's the best, most innovative program I've seen in a long time.”
— Ola Edwards, Biology Professor, University of Washington

“How incredibly creative to incorporate the arts with science and math in such a natural manner. It is truly interdisciplinary, very motivational, and will help open our students' eyes to the universe.”
— Camille Wainwright, Director, School of Education, Pacific University, OR

Materials

hands-on thinking skills, creativity, literacy & scientific literacy

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Professional Development

The Private Eye: Hands-on Inquiry
cross-the-curriculum, K-20 through Life

Workshops

- One day to one week -

Learn how to use The Private Eye’s simple “tools” to produce “gifted” results in your students — across subjects. You’ll write, draw and theorize as you explore applications for using the process year round to magnify minds. Meet the CCSS and NGSS standards naturally as you blend literacy and inquiry with content. Specially focus and follow-up workshops, too.

“I presented The Private Eye to 43 teachers at my school last week. It was awesome!”
—Kim Ottosen, Houston ISD Private Eye Trainer

Summer STEM Course

Offered in collaboration with Portland State University
and The Portland Metro STEM Partnership (3 semester credits and 1 credit follow-up course).

“It was a perfect balance of information input, hands-on activities, and discussion. ... I found this class to be one of the most exciting and valuable that I have taken.”
—Lisa Abramovic, Teacher, Beaverton School District, Oregon

Training the Trainers

In-district Trainers for Your District!

Want to spread the power of The Private Eye more quickly through your district? Here’s the answer: a Private Eye Training-the-Trainers Institute. We develop a cadre of your own In-District Trainers to deliver the official, licensed Private Eye One & Two Day Workshops to your district’s teachers.

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—Kim Ottosen, Houston ISD Private Eye Trainer
Whether you want to meet your state standards or the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), you’ll find it’s easy with The Private Eye. You’ll meet, as well, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) naturally as you blend literacy and inquiry with content. Using The Private Eye as an instructional practice, you’ll be thrilled at the tight fit with what research shows are the most effective instructional strategies for accelerating student achievement as noted by Robert J. Marzano. You’ll always be using the “5Es”, too. Visit these and more correlations at www.theprivateeye.com.

“It’s unbelievable the language that my kids come up with. The writing! The poetry! ... The Private Eye is a dynamic process that pushes my kids to excel, and they do!”

— Sara Nelson, Teacher, Gladys Weymouth School, Morrill, ME

“Designer Insects” — An art and entomology unit using The Private Eye. Forthcoming in The Private Eye Companion (download lessons). This designer insect is based on a loupe-view of a fly by a middle school student.

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Using the interdisciplinary Private Eye program, students and adults write, draw, and theorize across subjects with increasing sophistication — boosting critical thinking skills, creativity, and content knowledge in the process. In the examples pictured here, students and adults have turned their loupe-drawings of thumb-prints into large-scale artworks. The lesson flows into autobiographical writing, becomes a bridge to DNA studies, forensics, or an inquiry into the importance of individuality in a group. (See “The Simple Touch”, p.136, The Private Eye.)

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“The whole universe in my small, big thumb.”

— Elsie, 2nd Grade

“It’s been nine years since I started using The Private Eye in my classroom. The kids love it. Their writing, drawing and thinking is amazing!!”

— Virginia Gould, Teacher, Spokane, WA

“Designer Insects” — An art and entomology unit using The Private Eye. Forthcoming in The Private Eye Companion (download lessons). This designer insect is based on a loupe-view of a fly by a middle school student.
“The pattern-recognition skills embedded in The Private Eye are central to learning **systems thinking**. When children (and adults) apply the lessons of The Private Eye to their own contexts, they can improve their higher-order thinking and become more ecologically aware — a valuable approach to enhancing ecoliteracy in the classroom and beyond.”

—Fritjof Capra, Ph.D., physicist and systems theorist; founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy; author of *The Tao of Physics; The Web of Life*

“The most influential program you can put in a school. The loupe is the best little tool you’ll ever find. The Private Eye guide is the best book around.”

—Jeff Self, teacher, Presidential Award Recipient
Eureka City Schools, CA.

“... an exciting approach to engaging students in the art of scientific and mathematical thinking. It **should be a part of every school program.**”

—George “Pinky” Nelson, astrophysicist and former NASA astronaut

“A **visionary work**. The Private Eye is a gift to all those who care about language.”

—Richard Lederer, author of *The Miracle of Language; Crazy English; Pun and Games*

“The Private Eye is a **wonderful contribution** to literacy, poetry and ecological awareness.”

—Robert Hass, former U.S. Poet Laureate, Professor, UC Berkeley

“Every person I’ve exposed this to has fallen in love with it. It’s just **phenomenal.**”

—Amy Ouchley, Biology Professor,
NE Louisiana University

“The Private Eye is fabulous for adults. It gives people an **immediate experience of the creative process.**”

—Dr. Bonnie Zimmerman, Stanford University Medical School

“...**exceptionally ingenious and effective** program for science teaching. The Private Eye Project is the most promising such innovation I have ever seen.”

—Charles L. Remington, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies, Yale University

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