Declan Feeney - declan\_feeney@yahoo.com

The book that had the biggest impact on me, as a Primary mathematics teacher, was Transforming Primary Mathematics: Understanding Classroom Tasks by Mike Askew (2016). During my ITE training, there was much discussion around Mastery and what does Mastery look like in the classroom. Although this is not the primary text that explains Mastery as an entity, it was the first text that challenged my thinking, as I was learning about variation in mathematics and Variation Theory (VT) itself. Askew explains what VT is in simple terms and then goes on to show how it can be applied in the classroom. I think now, a further 8 months later and how I apply Mastery in my classroom, those subtle adaptations that I make using VT, support the stimulation of my children whist

As I delved further into my learning and throughout my placements, Askew has helped me address some of my own preconceptions, methods that I had learnt as a child and how teaching has moved on. In one of my assignments, I was examining the effects of instrumental understanding in mathematics. Askew discusses what we mean by fluency. Transforming Primary Mathematics helped me unpick where Instrumental learning has its part to play and more importantly, supported me to develop my own understanding and knowledge of how to move children relational understanding.

 I fully recommend Transforming Primary Mathematics: Understanding Classroom as a must for any PGCE student, particularly if you a specialising in mathematics. The book covers a lot of bases that will support you academically and more importantly, help you think about your own practices.