

Mentor Texts For Opinion Writing Second Grade

It's been said that good writers borrow while great writers steal. Writing thieves read widely, dive deeply into texts, and steal bits and pieces from great texts as models for their own writing. Ruth Culham admits to being a writing thief--and she wants you and your students to become writing thieves, too! A major part of good writing instruction is finding the right mentor texts to share with students. Within this book, you'll discover more than 90 excellent mentor texts, along with straight-forward activities that incorporate the traits of writing across informational, narrative, and argument modes. Chapters also include brief essays from beloved writing thieves such as Lester Laminack, David L. Harrison, Lisa Yee, Nicola Davies, Ralph Fletcher, Toni Buzzeo, Lola Schaefer, and Kate Messner, detailing the reading that has influenced their own writing. Ruth's renowned easy-going style and friendly tone make this a book you'll turn to again and again as you guide your students to reach their full potential as deep, thoughtful readers and great writers. There's a writing thief in each of us when we learn how to read with a writer's eye!

There are lots of fascinating animals throughout the world with unusual characteristics. But you may be surprised to learn that many common animals may also have some uncommon characteristics! For example, did you know that: A giraffe can clean its own ears with its tongue? Or that a hippo has teeth as long as a child's arm? So come read facts about fourteen special animals who are less "normal" than we may think at first look.

All Sophie wants for her birthday is a pet giraffe, but as she tries to convince different members of her rather complicated family to support her cause, each tells her she is using too many words until she finally hits on the perfect one. Includes glossary.

Fifteen-year-old Shay Summers is trying to cope with the death of her father, being overweight, and threats from a girl bully in school. When she falls in love with Blake, a mysterious boy online, insecure Shay doesn't want to tell him who she is. But with the help of her two best friends, as well as an assist by Kermit and Miss Piggy, ultimately Shay and Blake's love prevails. Girls Like Me is a fun and fresh poetic take on teen angst, social media and online anonymity, and high school romance.

The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear

How to Reach Every Writer in the Room Using Current, Engaging Mentor Texts

Finding Winnie

20 Lessons Based on Favorite Picture Books That Introduce Story Structure, Nonfiction Text Features & Author's Craft

Teaching Writing with Mentor Texts in the Primary Classroom

The Writing Thief

Could anything possibly be more fun than a pig parade!? You wouldn't think so. But you'd be wrong. A pig parade is a terrible idea. Pigs hate to march, refuse to wear the uniforms, don't care about floats, and insist on playing country music ballads. Those are just some of the reasons. And trust me, this hysterical book has plenty more!

Every Tuesday night, while his parents try to enjoy their dinner, a boy turns into a monster the moment a pea touches his lips.

This is the diary...of a fly. A fly who, when she's not landing on your head or swimming in your soup, is trying to escape her 327 brothers and sisters who are driving her crazy! Even though she's little -- just like her best friends Worm and Spider -- Fly wants to be a superhero. And why not? She walks on walls, sees in all directions at once, and can already fly! Doreen Cronin and Harry Bliss, the team behind the New York Times bestsellers Diary of a Worm and Diary of a Spider, reach hilarious heights with their story of a little fly who's not afraid to dream big. Really big.

A young girl uses various arguments to convince her parents to let her have her ears pierced.

Weird & Wild Animal Facts

Writing with Mentors

The Day the Crayons Quit

Mentor Author, Mentor Texts

Craft Moves

Going Blue

"Introduces opinion writing to children using photographs as idea prompts"--

The colorful boyhood of a popular author comes to life in this personal account Imagine learning from a nosy classmate that your mother is having yet another baby. To Ralph's classmates, news of one more Fletcher baby is just "scuttlebutt." But for Ralph, the oldest of nine, being part of a large family means more kids to join in the fun—from making tripods in the woods and "snicking" up the rug, to raising chicks and even discovering a meteor (well, maybe). It doesn't feel like there's life beyond Marshfield, Massachusetts. Then one day Dad's new job moves the family to Chicago, and there's so much Ralph has to leave behind. In this humorous and captivating memoir, Ralph Fletcher traces the roots of his storytelling.

Foreword by Lester Laminack How do you choose mentor texts for your students? How do you mine them for the craft lessons you want your students to learn? In Craft Moves, Stacey Shubitz, cofounder of the Two Writing Teachers website, does the heavy lifting for you: using twenty recently published picture books, she creates more

than 180 lessons to teach various craft moves that will help your students become better writers. Stacey first discusses picture books as teaching tools and offers ways to integrate them into your curriculum, and classroom discussions. She also shares routines and classroom procedures to help students focus on their writing during the independent writing portion of writing workshop and helps teachers prepare for small-group instruction. Each of the 184 lessons in the book includes a publisher's summary, a rationale or explanation of the craft move demonstrated in the book, and a procedure that takes teachers and students back into the mentor text to deepen their understanding of the selected craft move. A step-by-step guide demonstrates how to analyze a picture book for multiple craft moves. Using picture books as mentor texts will help your students not only read as writers and write with joy but also become writers who can effectively communicate meaning, structure their writing, write with detail, and give their writing their own unique voice.

Sometimes a student's best teacher is another student. If ever there were a book to respond to the pressure to increase students' test scores, this is it. You see, Gretchen Bernabei and Judi Reimer have had amazing success using mentor texts by students to teach writing well in any genre. Now, they "hand over their file drawers" and pair 101 student essays with one-page lessons on topics such as how to: Choose a structure across genres Extract thesis statement and main points Support points with details Use rhetorical devices and grammatical constructions Write from the point of view of a fictional character

When I Was a Kid

How to Assess Writing, Invigorate Instruction, and Rethink Revision

Finding the Heart of Nonfiction

A Fine, Fine School

Using Mentor Texts to Teach the Craft of Writing

Teach Writing Well

Written by service learning expert Cathryn Berger Kaye and celebrity ocean spokesperson Philippe Cousteau, *Going Blue* educates young people about the earth's water crisis and gives them tools and inspiration to transform their ideas into action. With lively photos and practical suggestions, the book helps teens plan and do a meaningful service project that benefits our planet's water system. Along the way, readers learn about issues such as clean water access, coral reef damage, runoff pollution, trash islands, factory fishing, bottled water, and much more. This combination of academic learning and community service is at the heart of the fast-growing teaching strategy known as service learning. *Going Blue* is divided into the five stages of service learning: investigation, preparation, action, reflection, and demonstration. Special sections include a history of ocean exploration with a profile of Jacques Cousteau; an interview with Philippe Cousteau; stories of young people around the world addressing water issues; book and Web resources; and an afterword for adults. Unlike the other rocks that he plays with, Ricky can't roll because he isn't round. His friends help him to overcome his challenge and find a way for him to play like everyone else. Humanity and warmth. They are the cornerstones of quality nonfiction writing - even in genres more informational than intimate. With "Finding the Heart of Nonfiction," Georgia Heard demonstrates how with mentor texts you can help students create inviting nonfiction.

"Writing With Mentors is one of the best books I've read on harnessing the power of mentor texts to spur authentic student writing." --Kelly Gallagher, author of *Write Like This*
"Writing With Mentors has transformed the way I think about using exemplar pieces." --Christopher Lehman, coauthor of *Falling in Love with Close Reading*
"I am certain Don [Graves] would have celebrated these wise, kind, and fearless advocates for young writers." --Penny Kittle, author of *Write Beside Them*
In *Writing with Mentors*, high school teachers Allison Marchetti and Rebekah O'Dell prove that the key to cultivating productive, resourceful writers-writers who can see value and purpose for writing beyond school-is using dynamic, hot-off-the-press mentor texts. In this practical guide, they provide savvy strategies for: --finding and storing fresh new mentor texts, from trusted traditional sources to the social mediums of the day --grouping mentor texts in clusters that show a diverse range of topics, styles, and approaches --teaching with lessons that demonstrate the enormous potential of mentor texts at every stage of the writing process. In chapters that follow the scaffolded instruction Allison and Rebekah use in their own classrooms, you'll discover how using mentor texts can unfold across the year, from inspiration and planning to drafting, revising, and "going public" in final publication. Along the way, you'll find yourself reaching every writer in the room, whatever their needs. "Our hope in this book," they write, "is to show you a way mentors can help you teach anything you need or want to teach in writing. A way that is grounded in the work of real writers and the real reading you do every day. A way that is sustainable and fresh, and will serve your students long after they leave your classroom."

Pick a Picture, Write an Opinion!

I Wanna Iguana

A Pig Parade Is a Terrible Idea

Teaching Writing Through Children's Literature, K-6

Southwest Sunrise

The Great Kapok Tree

A hilarious companion to I Wanna Iguana. Ever since their baby sister came along, Alex has been forced to share a room with his little brother, Ethan, and it's a nightmare. Ethan always breaks stuff, snores like a walrus, and sticks crayons up his nose. No hardworking, well-behaved, practically grown-up boy like Alex should have to put up with that! Writing letters to his mom convinced her to let him get his pet iguana, so Alex puts pencil to paper again, this time determined to get his own room. Though all of his powers of persuasion can't get his dad to expand the house, he does come through with a fun alternative to give Alex some space of his own.

"This book is a practical guide to using mentor texts in the teaching of writing in middle and high school classrooms"--

Ralph Fletcher has long mentored writing teachers--now he presents the ultimate mentor-text resource for teaching students to write. In Mentor Author, Mentor Texts, Ralph shares 24 short, high-interest texts and accompanying Writer's Notes with your students. Arranged from least difficult to most challenging, they are ready for writers at every level. Online, Ralph also provides whiteboard-ready versions of the texts as well as recordings where he reads 17 of his pieces. Mentor Author, Mentor Texts Includes: 24 mentor texts written by Ralph, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more Writer's Notes that give students a peek into Ralph's thinking and craft Online access to whiteboard-ready versions of Ralph's mentor texts Online access to recordings of Ralph reading 17 of his pieces Suggestions from colleagues nationwide for using Ralph's texts in the classroom. Let your teaching mentor become your students' writing mentor... ..with engaging mentor texts written and read by Ralph Fletcher... "I wrote all 24 pieces in this book. You'll find an assortment of genres: stories, memoir, poems, essays, and excerpts from novels. The various texts are ordered from easiest (least challenging) to hardest (most challenging). I tried to select short, high-interest pieces. Each one stands on its own with a beginning, middle, and ending. I tried to choose pieces that would bring a sense of closure by the end." ...writer's notes that give students an inside peek into craft... "My Writer's Notes introduce the text, explain my thinking behind various decisions, and point out a few things I want kids to notice. With certain pieces, especially the last three, I highlight revisions I made along the way. I tried hard not to take the mystery out of good writing. Instead these notes are my way of opening the door and leading the student into the text." ...and practical, classroom-tested suggestions like this from your colleagues "One of my students, Suzy, knows that she struggles to provide enough detail in her non-fiction pieces. For her piece about soccer, she told me that she knew she needed to include more details because she didn't want the reader to be confused. We had already read Ralph's "Squirmy Wizards of Recycling," so we looked at the Writer's Notes. Ralph said he had brainstormed questions that readers may have had as they read about worm composting, and he then tried to include the answers to those questions in the piece. Suzy decided that she would write down questions that she thought her reader might still have about soccer and then make sure those questions were answered in her writing. Since both Suzy and I have already developed a relationship with Ralph through his texts, it felt like we were inviting an old friend to join our conference." -Kate Norem Morris, Teacher, The Bush School, Seattle, Washington

If you are a teacher of grades K-6, you might be asking, "Should I teach grammar in my class on a daily basis? How would I go about doing this? And how can I teach grammar so it isn't boring to my kids?" In Grammar Matters, Lynne Dofman and Diane Dougherty answer these questions and more. Using mentor texts as the cornerstone for how best to teach grammar, this book provides teachers with almost everything they need to get kids not only engaged but excited about learning grammar. Divided into four parts--Narrative Writing, Informational Writing, Opinion Writing, and Grammar Conversations--this hand reference provides practical teaching tips, assessment ideas, grammar definitions, and specific mentor texts to help students learn about parts of speech, idioms, usage issues, and punctuation. Through "Your Turn Lessons," conversations, conferences, and drafting, revising, and editing exercises, students will learn not only specific concepts but also how to reflect upon and transfer what they have learned to other writing tasks, no matter the subject. The "Treasure Chest of Children's Books" provides an extensive list of both fiction and nonfiction books that fit naturally into grammar instruction. Eight appendices provide even more resources, including information on homophones, using mentor texts to teach grammar and conventions, checklists, comma rules, help for ELL students, and a glossary of grammar terms. Grammar Matters links instruction to the Common Core State Standards and features quality, classroom-tested tools that help teachers provide their students with the gifts of grammar and literacy.

I Am Every Good Thing

Grammar Matters

A Teacher's Guide to Mentor Texts, 6-12

Don't Feed the Bear

Red is Best

Short Texts, Craft Notes, and Practical Classroom Uses

Alex just has to convince his mom to let him have an iguana, so he puts his arguments in writing. He promises that she won't have to feed it or clean its cage or even see it if she doesn't want to. Of course Mom imagines life with a six-foot-long iguana eating them out of house and home. Alex's reassurances: It takes fifteen years for an iguana to get that big. I'll be married by then and probably living in my own house. and his mom's replies: How are you going to get a girl to marry you when you own a giant reptile? will have kids in hysterics as the negotiations go back and forth through notes. And the lively, imaginative illustrations show their polar opposite dreams of life with an iguana.

Mentor-text-based lessons on finding topics, organizing material, writing leads and endings, exploring genre, and more.

"What we have here is a bad case of stripes. One of the worst I've ever seen!" Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never eats them. Why? Because the other kids in her

school don't like them. And Camilla Cream is very, very worried about what other people think of her. In fact, she's so worried that she's about to break out in...a bad case of stripes!

Kelly's mom doesn't understand all of the reasons why red is the best color. Through minimal text and elegant illustration, Kelly shows her mom why juice tastes better in the red cup, red pyjamas keep the monsters away at night, and red boots take bigger steps. Red is Best is the classic best-selling picture book by Kathy Stinson and Robin Baird Lewis, available now as an e-book.

My Teacher for President

Ricky, the Rock That Couldn't Roll

A Teen Guide to Saving Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers, & Wetlands

A Bad Case of Stripes

Earrings!

Lesson Sets for Teaching Writing with Mentor Texts

The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home.

Guide students through writing about their opinion using Stella's experiences as she chooses a topic, states her opinion, and lists supporting reasons.

The Perfect Pet Harper Collins

Ask successful writers and they'll tell you, the key to writing well is revision. Ask elementary school teachers and they'll tell you, the real challenge of writing instruction is teaching kids how to revise. Ruth Culham is both a successful writer and a writing teacher, and she's discovered how to teach writing and revision in a way that's accessible to both teacher and students: First read the writing, assess it using the traits of writing, then teach the writers and guide revision decisions using traits as a common language and map. This book shows you how to assess and teach writing in a way that's practical and doable--and best of all, see results. Part 1 walks you through the traits of writing and their key qualities, showing step by step how to read students' writing and offer feedback that nudges them forward through the revision process. Chapters will help you address challenges students face within each mode of writing (narrative, expository, persuasive), and provide tools young writers can use to evaluate their own writing and make revision decisions accordingly. Part 2 dives into instruction, offering specific guidance for how to use what you've learned from reading student writing to design lessons that scaffold students toward making their own craft decisions and revisions. In addition, there's an entire chapter devoted to mentor texts that you can use to model traits and key qualities for your students.

Night of the Veggie Monster

Teaching 7 Essential Craft Tools with Mentor Texts

A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest

101 Lessons & Mentor Texts--Narrative, Opinion/Argument, & Informative/Explanatory, Grades 4-9

Marshfield Dreams

Stella Writes an Opinion

While on vacation, Mrs. LaRue receives letters from her dog Ike who has been falsely accused of harming the neighbor's cats and is trying to clear his name.

A #1 New York Times Bestseller and Winner of the Caldecott Medal about the remarkable true story of the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh. In 1914, Harry Colebourn, a veterinarian on his way to tend horses in World War I, followed his heart and rescued a baby bear. He named her Winnie, after his hometown of Winnipeg, and he took the bear to war. Harry Colebourn's real-life great-granddaughter tells the true story of a remarkable friendship and an even more remarkable journey--from the fields of Canada to a convoy across the ocean to an army base in England... And finally to the London Zoo, where Winnie made another new friend: a real boy named Christopher Robin. Before Winnie-the-Pooh, there was a real bear named Winnie. And she was a girl!

A second-grader writes a television station with reasons why his teacher would make a good president, but only if she can continue teaching till the end of the year.

When Duncan arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them. Kids can imagine their own conversations with crayons with this picture book by Daywalt and "New York Times"-bestselling illustrator Jeffers. Full color.

The Classroom Essentials Series

Detective LaRue

Writing Reviews

Girls Like Me

Mentor Texts

The Perfect Pet

Illustrations and easy-to-read text pay homage to the strength, character, and worth of a child.

Bear loves when campers leave him grub. The park ranger does not. Smackity smack, Ranger pounds a sign into the ground: DON'T FEED THE BEAR!

Upset, Bear crosses out the "don't." Now, it's war! But when both Bear and Ranger lose out, will they finally make peace? With its

cartoonlike pictures and clever wordplay, this book will keep kids laughing for hours.

The important thing about The Important Book -- is that you let your child tell you what is important about the sun and the moon and the wind

and the rain and a bug and a bee and a chair and a table and a pencil and a bear and a rainbow and a cat (if he wants to). For the important

thing about The Important Book is that the book goes on long after it is closed. What is most important about many familiar things -- like

rain and wind, apples and daisies -- is suggested in rhythmic words and vivid pictures. 'A perfect book . . . the text establishes a word

game which tiny children will accept with glee.' -- K.

After Elizabeth's parents do not agree with her various suggestions for the perfect pet, she discovers a solution.

I Wanna New Room

Diary of a Fly

Fun-Size Academic Writing for Serious Learning

Lessons, Tips, and Conversations Using Mentor Texts, K-6

The Important Book

From Children's Literature Legacy Award winner Nikki Grimes and highly-acclaimed illustrator Wendell Minor comes a stunning picture book about the beauty of the natural world and finding a new place to call home. The beauty of the natural world is just waiting to be discovered . . . When Jayden touches down in New Mexico, he's uncertain how this place could ever be home. But if he takes a walk outside, he just might find something glorious. Flowers in bright shades . . . Birds and lizards and turtles, all with a story to tell . . . Red rock pillars towering in the distance . . . Turquoise sky as far as the eye can see . . . Perhaps this place could be home after all. Gorgeously poetic and visually stunning, this story from acclaimed creators Nikki Grimes and Wendell Minor celebrates the beauty of the Southwest as a young boy sees it for the very first time. Acclaim for One Last Word A Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Winner A New York Times Editor's Choice One day, Mr. Keene called all the students and teachers together and said, "This is a fine, fine school! From now on, let's have school on Saturdays too." And then there was more. School all weekend. School on the holidays. School in the SUMMER! What was next . . . SCHOOL AT NIGHT? So it's up to Tillie to show her well-intentioned principal, Mr. Keene, that even though his fine, fine school is a wonderful place, it's not fine, fine to be there all the time.

It's been a decade since Lynne Dorfman and Rose Cappelli wrote the first edition of Mentor Texts and helped teachers across the country make the most of high-quality children's literature in their writing instruction. In the second edition of this important book Lynne and Rose show teachers how to help students become confident, accomplished writers by using literature as their foundation. The second edition includes brand-new "Your Turn Lessons," built around the gradual release of responsibility model, offering suggestions for demonstrations and shared or guided writing. Reflection is emphasized as a necessary component to understanding why mentor authors chose certain strategies, literary devices, sentence structures, and words. Lynne and Rose offer new children's book titles in each chapter and in a carefully curated and annotated Treasure Chest. At the end of each chapter a "Think About It--Talk About It--Write About It" section invites reflection and conversation with colleagues. The book is organized around the characteristics of good writing--focus, content, organization, style, and conventions. Rose and Lynne write in a friendly and conversational style, employing numerous anecdotes to help teachers visualize the process, and offer strategies that can be immediately implemented in the classroom. This practical resource demonstrates the power of learning to read like writers.

"Why are the animals and Mrs Wishy-Washy running?"--Back cover. Includes notes for teachers. Suggested level: junior.

One Word from Sophia

Wishy-washy Ice Cream

Letters from the Investigation