

## MENTOR TEXTS for Writing (using picturebooks)

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### Launching Writers Workshop

- Nothing ever happens on 90<sup>th</sup> street - Roni Schotter
- Fireflies Julie Brinkloe
- I'm in charge of celebrations - Byrd Baylor
- The other way to listen - Byrd Baylor
- The paper boy - Dav Pilkey
- Woman hollering creek (eleven) - Sandra Cisneros

### Narrative Writing:

- A Sweet Smell of Roses - Angela Johnson
- Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale - Mo Willems
- Knuffle Bunny Too: Case of Mistaken identity - Mo Willems.
- A tree named steve - Alan Zweibel/David Catrow
- Alexander and the Terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day - Judith Viorst
- Great Pumpkin Switch - Megan McDonald/Ted Lewin
- Ira sleeps over - Bernard Waber
- Shortcut - Donald Crews
- The greatest game ever played: a football story - Phil Bildner
- Fly away home - Eve Bunting
- Josie's first allowance day - Rosie Perez
- Leaves - David Ezra Stein
- Mutt dog - Stephen Michael king
- Extra Yarn - Mac Barnett
- Goal! - Mina Javaherbin (**soccer, hope, bullying**)
- Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly by Alan Madison
- Guys Read - Thriller\_Compiled by Jon Scieszka (short stories - great descriptions)

### Persuasive Writing:

- Click clack Moo: Cows that type - Doreen Cronin
- I wanna iguana - Karen Kaufman Orloff
- Earrings - Judith viorst

### Literary essay:

- The other side - Jacqueline woodson
- Slower than the rest - Cynthia Rylant
- My side of the story - Adam Bagdasarian
- Four feet, Two sandals - Karen Williams/Khadra Mohammed
- The Wednesday surprise Eve Bunting

- A chair for my mother – vera Willaims
- Chrysanthemum – Kevin Henkes
- Paper Bag princess – Robert Munsch
- The meanest thing to say – Bill Cosby
- Uncle Peter’s Amazing Chinese Wedding – Lenore Look

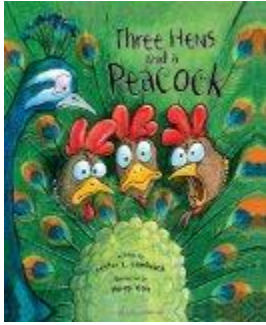
Memoir:

- What you know first – patricia maclachlan
- When the relatives came – Cynthia Rylant

CRITICAL THINKING/Images

- Tan, Shaun. The red tree. 2003. Simply Read Books, Van. What happens when everything is horrible. Out of despair is a ray of hope.
- Myers, Christopher. Fly. Book of friendship.
- Myers, Christopher. Wings. Are you brave enough to be your true self? Book of difference.
- Dengler, Marianna. The worry stone. 1996. old woman reaches out to a young boy.
- Van Allsburg, Chris. The wretched stone. 1991. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.
- Van Allsburg, Chris. The stranger. 1986. Houghton Mifflin. Boston. Stranger has a strange connection to the weather.
- Van Allsburg, Chris. Just a Dream. 1990. Houghton Mifflin. Environmental effects are seen through a boy’s dreams and his world changes.
- Van Allsburg, C. Two Bad Ants. I love this book about the misadventures of two mischievous ants. It is one of my favorite books to read aloud to kids.
- Weisner, David. Sector 7. Boy makes others see the world in a new way through drawing cloud shapes. (No words)
- Lester, Alison, Imagine
- Pearson, Emily, Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed
- Bunting, Eve. Riding the Tiger
- Morpurgo, Michael. Sam's Duck
- Reynolds, Peter H. The Dot
- Reynolds, Peter. Ish
- Muth, Jon J. The Three Questions
- Laden, Nina. When Pigasso Met Mootisse
- Cave, Kathryn. You've Got Dragons

### Three Hens and a Peacock



by Lester L. Laminack (Author) and Henry Cole (Illustrator)

Nothing unusual ever happened on the Tuckers farm. Until the day that peacock showed up...

**Snippet:** The hens were squawking and clucking and flapping their wings. "We do all the work around here. I'd like to see that peacock lay one single egg."

### Irony:

- I want my hat back - Jon Klassen

### DECISION MAKING/IMAGERY:

- Ahlberg, Allan (2001). [The adventures of bert](#). New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. Bert is a young man whose life is full of adventures. He ends up safely with his family in the end --- but he spends some time in Scotland, is chased by a giant sausage, and rescues a puppy in the river.
- Aliko (1998). [Marianthe's story one: Painted words. Marianthe's story two: Spoken memories](#). New York: Greenwillow. When a child moves to a new school it can be frightening. Mari not only moved to a new school, but a new culture as well. Mari uses painted pictures to communicate her words and recalls her life through spoken memories.
- Armstrong, Jennifer (1992). [Hugh can do](#). New York: Crown. Hugh is an orphan who wants to go to the city to make his fortune. Even though he encounters many obstacles, he pushes on and makes it to the city.
- Asch, Frank (1998). [Ziggy piggy and the three little pigs](#). Toronto: Kids Can Press. A new character is added to the story of the three little pigs, changing the tale to four little pigs. The fourth pig saves his brothers from the wolf by being resourceful.
- Babbitt, Natalie (1994). [Bub or the very best thing](#). New York: HarperCollins. The king and queen, wanting only the best for Bub, start asking everyone what they think is the best thing for Bub. Finally, the cook's daughter suggests that the king and queen ask Bub what is best.
- Bahr, Mary (1992). [The memory box](#). Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co.. A young boy goes to his grandparent's house for a summer vacation. His grandfather has recently found out that he has Alzheimers disease, so they spend their summer vacation collecting memories to put in a box. The box is to help them never forget the memories they have made together.

- Baker, Jeannie (1991). [Window](#). New York: Greenwillow. A wordless book that depicts changes occurring outside a window throughout one boy's life.
- Browne, Anthony (1990). [Changes](#). New York: Alfred A Knopf. A little boy is told by his father that things are going to change. The boy imagines the tea kettle growing a tail and other ridiculous things to explain what his father said.
- Cech, John (1991). [My grandmother's journey](#). New York: Bradbury Press. Karie's grandmother tells her about her hard life in Russia during World War II. This is a true story.
- dePaola, Tomie (1991). [Bonjour, mr. satie](#). New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. Mr. Satie has to decide whose paintings are better - Henri or Pablo. His decision ends up uniting the two artists and ending their feud.
- **Is it because** - Tony Ross. He presents an even-handed story that succeeds in engaging sympathy for both the bully's victim and the bully himself. In a simply-told rhyming tale, a little boy asks his pet dog why a bully is picking on him. "... is it because he's got silly names? Is it because he's no good at games?" After asking many more "is it because" questions, the little boy finally concludes, "... perhaps it's because he'd rather be me!" Here is food for thought, told in a style that will appeal to younger boys and girls. Color illustrations on every page.
- Crum, Shutta. **THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE**. Illustrated by Tim Bowers. Knopf, 2005 K-3 A young skunk makes his way home through the forest. Is he brave enough to keep robbers, pirates and ghosts away?
- Lester, Helen. **HURTY FEELINGS**. Illustrated by Lynn Mussinger. Houghton-Mifflin, 2005. Illustrated K-3 Fragility, the hippo, had her feelings so easily hurt that other animals avoided her until she meets Rudy the elephant..a big bully.
- Thompson, Sarah L. **IMAGINE A DAY**. Paintings by Rob Gonsalves. Atheneum 2004. Grades 2-6 Imagine a day when...The imaginative paintings can inspire creative writing.
- Cannon, Janell. **PINDULI**. Harcourt, 2004. Gr K-3 No one but her mama thinks Pinduli is a beautiful hyena. She wants to disappear but ends up showing the other animals how a few words can make a big difference. A touching story that shows looks aren't everything!
- Shannon, George. **LIZARD'S GUEST**. Illus by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow, 2003. Gr K-2 When Lizard steps on Skunk's toe, Skunk won't forget it, but Lizard makes things right no matter what it takes.
- Spinelli, Eileen. **THREE PEBBLES AND A SONG**. Illus. by S.D. Schindler. Dial, 2003. Gr K-2 A small mouse sets out to gather things for winter but the things he brings home seem useless..or are they?
- Haan, Amanda. **I CALL MY HAND GENTLE** . Illustrated by Marina Sagona. Viking, 2003. K-3 Name all the things a hand can do ( pick, hug, throw,hold,pel, tickle, catch, build, hammer, write, count..all of these things I choose. I choose not to steal, push, hurt, grab, break.)....Excellent activity to combine fluency with character education.

- Waber, Bernard. **COURAGE**. Houghton-Mifflin. 2002 Gr K-3. Riding your bicycle for the first time without training wheels is one kind of courage. There are many other kinds shown with clever illustrations.
- **Brown, Ruth.** [World that Jack Built, The](#). Picture Book.
- **Cooney, Barbara.** [Miss Rumphius](#). Picture Book.
- **Henkes, Kevin.** [Chester's Way](#). Picture Book.
- **Henkes, Kevin.** [Julius, the Baby of the World](#). Picture Book.
- **Lyon, George Ella.** [Cecil's Story](#). Illustrated by Peter Catalanotto. Picture Book.
- **Bunting, Eve.** [Dandelions](#). Illustrated by Greg Shed. Picture Book

### Primary: Reaching Out to Others/Friendship

- Henkes, Kevin (2000). [Wemberly worried](#). Minneapolis: Greenwillow Books  
A young mouse named Wemberky worries about everything. Now she faces her biggest worry, the first day of school. Find out what Wemberly will do with so many worries to worry about!
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- Angel Child, Dragon Child by Michelle Maria Surat  
An Angel for Solomon Singer by Cynthia Rylant  
Arctic Stories by Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak  
Don't Need Friends by Carolyn Crimi  
Good Luck, Mrs. K! by Louise Borden  
Horace and Morris but Mostly Delores by James Howe  
Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber  
Just Kids: Visiting a Class for Children with Special Needs by E. B. Senisi  
Let's Talk About It: Extraordinary Friends by Fred Rogers  
Lottie's New Friend by Petra Mathers  
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney  
Mrs. Katz and Tush by Patricia Polacco  
Next Spring an Oriole by Gloria Whelan  
Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann  
Old Henry by Joan Blos  
The Old Woman Who Named Things by Cynthia Rylant  
Ruby the Copycat by Peggy Rathmann  
Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt by Lisa Campbell Ernst  
The Shy Little Girl by Phyllis Krasilovsky  
Sing to the Stars, by Mary Brigid Barrett  
Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli  
Stellaluna by Janelle Cannon

Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen by Dianne DiSalvo Ryan  
Yoko by Rosemary Wells

***Picture Books for Older Readers***

- Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith

**Intermediate: Reaching Out to Others/Friendship**

- Be Good to Eddie Lee by Virginia Fleming
- Collector of Moments by Quint Buchholz
- Drylongso by Virginia Hamilton
- Flags by Maxine Trottier
- Josepha: A Prairie Boy's Story by Jim McGugan
- Just Like New by Ainslie Manson
- Nadia's Hands by Karen English
- Nobiah's Well by Donna Guthrie
- The Orphan Boy by Tololwa M. Mollel
- Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco
- Smoky Night by Eve Bunting
- Tomas and the Library Lady by Pat Mora

**Upper Intermediate/Middle School: Reaching Out to Others/Friendship**

- Be Good to Eddie Lee by Virginia Fleming
- Bonesy and Isabel by Michael Rosen
- Collector of Moments by Quint Buchholz
- Drylongso by Virginia Hamilton
- Flags by Maxine Trottier
- Josepha: A Prairie Boy's Story by Jim McGugan
- Just Like New by Ainslie Manson
- Nadia's Hands by Karen English
- Nobiah's Well by Donna Guthrie
- The Orphan Boy by Tololwa M. Mollel
- Smoky Night by Eve Bunting
- Tomas and the Library Lady by Pat Mora

- ALBERT – NAPOLI Every day, reclusive Albert sticks his hand out the window to figure out what the weather is like. One day a couple of cardinals begin nesting on his hand, and Albert is reluctant to destroy their nest. So instead he keeps his arm out the window and discovers that the world outside is worth seeing. This is a beautiful story.
- The rag coat – Mills. The beautiful story about a poor Appalachian girl who proudly wears a coat made from the rags of her neighbors, only to find herself ridiculed by her classmates. Touching and uplifting, and a good lesson.
- The shrinking of Treehorn. Heide. Ever felt ignored? While Treehorn tries to convince adults that he is shrinking, they shrug their shoulders as if the boy had told them there was a monster in his closet. All the while Treehorn shrinks, and the illustrations by **Edward Gorey** are delightful in his demented style (he illustrated the macabre drawings at the beginning of the wonderful “**Mystery**” series on **PBS**).
- Shrinking violet. Best. Have you ever wanted to see the shy kid beat the class bully?
- Some things are scary. Heide. This book was illustrated by one of the greatest children's illustrators of all time, Jules Feiffer.
- Stand Tall molly Lou Mellon. P. Lovell. have read this touching tale to kindergartners, and they love the illustrations and story of this odd-looking little girl who never lets anything or anyone bring her down. This is a great story for children who lack self confidence (e.g. most children).
- Winners never quit. Mia Hamm. Bet you didn't know that the greatest star in women's soccer wrote a compelling kids' book, did you? This is a great book to show children the value of setting and pursuing goals, as well as the importance of learning teamwork and trying your hardest. Mia's transparent autobiography is a great tale for kids who need to learn a little more patience and a little less pouting.
- Your move. Eve Bunting. A touching tale told by a 10-year-old in South L.A. who almost joins a gang. A great book to show students the power of their choices.