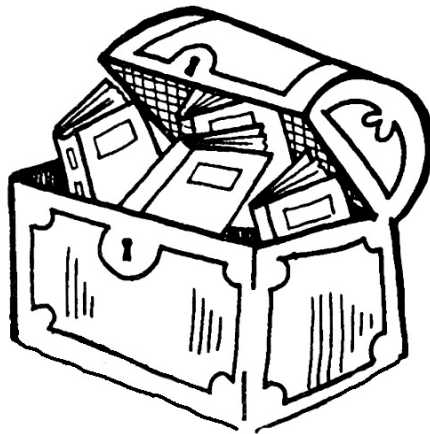


Books, Books, and More Books! Mentor Text Experiences That Transform Young Readers and Writers

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Mentor Text Experiences to Begin the School Year

Cocca-Leffler, M. (2015). *Janine*. Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman.
Janine is excluded from a party because she is different but, instead of being upset, she has her own party and invites EVERYONE! The author wrote this book about her daughter, Janine, who has bravely navigated her life with disabilities.
Teaching Idea: Social Studies—Accepting Differences, Kindness

Federle, T. (2015). *Tommy can't stop*. (M. Fearing, Illus.). New York: Disney/Hyperion.
"Tommy's gotta bop." He also likes to bounce, kick, clomp, and hurdle. He is so full of energy that his family looks for ways to tire him out. Finally, a reluctant Tommy tries tap dancing and discovers he's got talent.
Teaching Ideas: Social Studies—Accepting Differences; Read Like a Writer—Parentheses; Grammar—Verbs

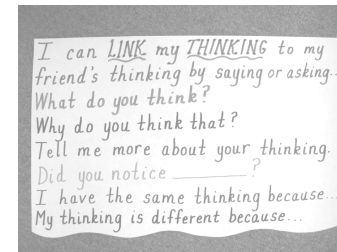
Ferry, B. (2015). *Stick and Stone*. (T. Lichtenheld, Illus.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Stick and Stone become friends when Stick stands up to Pinecone who is bullying Stone.
Teaching Ideas: Rhyming Text; Inferring Big Ideas (See M-by-M Reading p. 186); Social Studies—Bullying, Friendship

Krall, D. (2015). *Sick Simon*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
Do your students sneeze and cough all over the classroom? If so, then this book is perfect for them! Watch your kids' faces as you read about Sick Simon's "best week ever!" The illustrations are disgusting, but they get the point across.
Teaching Idea: Science—Healthy Body

Murphy, B. (2015). *Ready for school, Murphy?* New York: Disney/Hyperion.
After having some bad dreams about school, Murphy pretends to be sick so he won't have to go. When he finds out it's Saturday he feels much better and goes out to play—in his underwear!
Teaching Ideas: Beginning of the Year; Read Like a Writer (notice that the story begins on the front end papers)

Krosoczka, J. J. (2014). *Peanut Butter and Jellyfish*. New York: Knopf.
Best friends, Peanut Butter and Jellyfish, are endlessly taunted by Crabby. One day, Crabby gets caught in a lobster trap. When the duo sets Crabby free, he apologizes for his behavior and they all become friends.
Teaching Ideas: Social Studies—Bullying, Friendship; Noticing Characters' Responses (See T.L.T. p. 116-117); Vocabulary

Surround Mentor Text Experiences with Collaborative Conversations



Mini-Lesson found on pages 52-53 of *Month-by-Month Reading Instruction for the Differentiated Classroom* (Walther & Phillips, 2012)

Also see Blog Post by Lois Bridges: The Having of Grand Conversations
<http://frizzleblog.scholastic.com/post/having-grand-conversations>

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Mentor Texts to Spark Comprehension Conversations

Messner, K. (2015). *How to read a story*. (M. Siegel, Illus.). San Francisco, CA: Chronicle
This clever step-by-step guide to reading a story includes tips for reading with fluency, predicting, talking about the story, and much more!

Teaching Ideas: Launching Reading Workshop; Reading to Families on Curriculum Night or Literacy Night

Cole, H. (2012). *Unspoken*. New York: Scholastic.

This wordless picture book depicts a young girl's willingness to help a runaway slave and shows that "everyday people were brave in quiet ways."

Teaching Ideas: Black History; U. S. History (See *M-by-M Reading*, pp. 164–166); Asking Questions

Nelson, K. (2015). *If you plant a seed*. New York: HarperCollins.

Rabbit and Mouse plant seeds, but their selfishness leads to trouble. They discover that planting a seed of kindness is much sweeter.

Teaching Ideas: Science—Spring, Plants; Inferring Big Ideas (See *M-by-M Reading* p. 186); Pair with *Each Kindness* (Woodson, 2012)

de la Peña, M. (2015). *Last stop on Market Street*. (C. Robinson, Illus.). New York: Putnam.

CJ and his grandma are taking the city bus to a soup kitchen on the other side of town, along the way grandma teaches CJ some important life lessons.

Teaching Ideas: Pair with *Something Beautiful* (1998); Inferring Big Ideas (See *M-by-M Reading* p. 186)

Underwood, D. (2015). *Interstellar Cinderella*. (M. Hunt, Illus.). San Francisco: Chronicle.

In this galactic version of Cinderella, she dreams of fixing fancy rockets and ends up as the prince's chief mechanic instead of his bride.

Teaching Ideas: Compare and Contrast Different Cinderella Versions (See T. L. T. pp. 130–132); Traditional Tales (See *M-by-M Reading* pp. 142–144)

Use Mentor Texts to Read Aloud Like a Writer

What to look for . . .	What to say. . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Text Structures • Sensory Language • Creative Conventions • Repetition • Word Play • Onomatopoeia • Interjections • Illustration Techniques 	<p><i>Source: Choice Words</i> by Peter H. Johnston (Stenhouse, 2004)</p> <p>"What did you notice?"</p> <p>"What are you thinking?"</p> <p>"Why do you think the author or illustrator chose to do something like that?" "How else could the author or illustrator have done that?"</p> <p>"How might you do something like that in your own writing?"</p>

Mentor Texts to Spark Read Like a Writer Conversations

Byrne, R. (2014). *This book just ate my dog!* New York: Holt.

When Bella takes her dog for a "stroll across the page," he disappears into the gutter of the book along with her friend, the rescue squad, and Bella herself. Quick-thinking Bella writes a note to the readers telling them to shake the book and get everyone out.

Teaching Ideas: Parts of a Book—Gutter (See morning message in *M-by-M Reading* p. 40); Reading-Writing Connection

LaRochelle, D. (2012). *It's a tiger!* (J. Tankard, Illus.). San Francisco, CA: Chronicle.

Begin reading this boldly illustrated picture book on the front flap and continue to read, notice, and laugh at the young narrator's adventures as he narrowly escapes a tiger again and again!

Teaching Ideas: Mentor Text—Read Like a Writer; Creative Conventions; Repeated Line

Mack, J. (2013). *AH HA!* San Francisco, CA: Chronicle.

Frog is relaxing in the pond (AAHH!) when he finds a rock (AH HA!). Close behind there is a boy with a jar poised to catch him (AH HA!) and the chase begins. Using only four letters, Jeff Mack tells a rollicking tale.

Teaching Ideas: Reading Like a Writer; Fluency/Expression: Using illustrations to infer how to read the text

Mack, J. (2015). *Look!* New York: Philomel.

He's done it again! Jeff Mack, author of *AH HA!* (2013), has created another two-word masterpiece. This one is about a gorilla, a boy, and the power of books.

Teaching Ideas: Read Like a Writer, Sight Words

Deacon, A. (2013). *Cheese belongs to you!* (V. Schwarz, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick.

"This is rat law: Cheese belongs to you." Unless a gang of big, quick, strong, scary, hairy, dirty rats wants it. Filled with adjectives, this book is sure to inspire your writers!

Teaching Ideas: Read Like a Writer (Video clip found in T. L. T.); Grammar—Adjectives

McDonnell, P. (2014). *A perfectly messed-up story*. New York: Little, Brown.

Louie is trying to tell his story when someone messes it up. In the end, he realizes that everything is just fine. Ideal for kids who need to be a bit more flexible in their thinking.

Teaching Ideas: Social Studies—Flexible Thinking; Pair with *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* (Litwin, 2008)

Averbeck, J. (2015). *One word from Sophia*. (Y. Ismail, Illus.). New York: Atheneum.

Sophia desperately wants a pet giraffe and presents her arguments (along with pie charts and graphs) to her family. The author has included a humorous, and informative, glossary at the end of the book leading to further discussion about the wonderful world of words.

Teaching Ideas: Vocabulary—Introduce Glossary; Argument/Persuasive Writing

Infuse Informational Mentor Texts Into Instruction

Connect, Compare, and Contrast—Nonfiction Narrative and Biography

Applegate, K. (2014). *Ivan: The remarkable true story of a shopping mall gorilla*. (G. B. Karas, Illus.). New York: Clarion.

The touching tale of Ivan, a western lowland gorilla, who was captured and held captive for 27 years at the B & I Circus Store in Tacoma, Washington until 1994 when he was moved to Zoo Atlanta.

Teaching Ideas: Compare and Contrast with *Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh* (Walker, 2015) and *Christian the Lion* (Bourke & Rendall, 2009)

Walker, S. M. (2015). *Winnie: The true story of the bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh*. (J. D. Voss, Illus.). New York: Holt. World War I soldier and veterinarian, Henry Colebourn, adopts a baby bear and brings her to training camp in Quebec and then to England. Once in England, Henry is called to battle, so he takes Winnie to the London Zoo where a young boy named Christopher Robin meets her and the rest is history!

Teaching Ideas: Writing Genres—Nonfiction Narrative; Compare and Contrast with *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla* (Applegate, 2014) and *Christian the Lion* (Bourke & Rendall, 2009)

Meltzer, B. (2014). *I am Abraham Lincoln*. (C. Eliopoulos, Illus.). New York: Dial.

This is one of the biographies in the "Ordinary People Change the World" series. These books are ideal for young readers because they are told in an engaging manner that connects with children, while also clearly illustrating the lasting importance of the accomplishments of each individual.

Teaching Ideas: Writing Genres—Biography (For more information on writing a biography see M-by-M Writing p. 124 & M-by-M Reading Chapter 6); Social Studies—Inspiring Individuals (For more books & ideas see M-by-M Reading Chapter 6)

A Few Professional Books That Have Shaped My Thinking

Atwell, N. (2007). *The Reading Zone: How to Help Kids Become Skilled, Passionate, Habitual, Critical Readers*. Scholastic.

Biggs-Tucker, K., & Tucker, B. (2015). *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards, 3-5*. Scholastic.

Fuhler, C. J., & Walther, M. P. (2007). *Literature Is Back! Using the Best Books for Teaching Readers and Writers Across Genres*. Scholastic.

Johnston, P. H. (2004). *Choice Words: How Our Language Affects Children's Learning*. Stenhouse.

Johnston, P. H. (2012). *Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives*. Stenhouse.

Keene, E. O. (2012). *Talk About Understanding: Rethinking Classroom Talk to Enhance Comprehension*. Heinemann.

Miller, D. (2013). *Reading With Meaning: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades* (2nd ed.). Stenhouse.

Nichols, M. (2009). *Expanding Comprehension With Multigenre Text Sets*. Scholastic.

Ray, K. W., & Cleveland, L. B. (2004). *About the Authors: Writing Workshop with our Youngest Writers*. Heinemann.

Richardson, J. (2009). *The Next Step in Guided Reading*. Scholastic.

Richardson, J., & Walther, M. (2013). *Next Step Guided Reading Assessment*. Scholastic.

Routman, R. (2005). *Writing Essentials*. Heinemann.

Spandel, V. (2007). *Creating Young Writers* (2nd ed.). Allyn & Bacon.

Taberski, S. (2011). *Comprehension From The Ground Up*. Heinemann.

Walther, M. P. (2015). *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards, K-2*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. P., & Fuhler, C. J. (2010). *Teaching Struggling Readers With Poetry*. New York: Scholastic.

Walther, M. P. & Phillips, K. A. (2009). *Month-by-Month Trait-Based Writing Instruction*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. P., & Phillips, K. A. (2012). *Month-by-Month Reading Instruction for the Differentiated Classroom*. Scholastic.