Reading In The Writing Classroom
A Guide To Finding, Writing And Using Mentor Texts With Your Class

Felicity Ferguson & Ross Young
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A book-list of great texts which teach great writing: mentor texts for 3-103 year olds
The Writing For Pleasure Centre

The Writing For Pleasure Centre functions both as a think tank and as an action research community. The result is that we are continually engaged in sharing effective practices, case studies and research findings. The mission of The Writing For Pleasure Centre is to help all young people become passionate and successful writers. We look to accomplish this goal by investigating what world-class writing teaching might be. We do this through:

- Our school residencies and teacher training workshops.
- Curriculum development and creating resources.
- Conducting, disseminating and publishing research.
- Working with children, teachers, school leaders, teacher-educators and charities.

It's our hope that teachers regard The Writing For Pleasure Centre as a place where they can access a specialist network and continued professional development that is free.

If you're new to the idea of a Writing For Pleasure pedagogy, you can read all about it at: writing4pleasure.com

Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson are the founders of The Writing For Pleasure Centre and authors of Writing For Pleasure: Theory, Research & Practice, The Science Of Teaching Primary Writing and Real-World Writers: A Handbook For Teaching Writing With 7-11 Year Olds and Writing. They both hold MAs in applied linguistics in education. As passionate writer-teachers, they now work around the UK and abroad helping teachers and schools develop extraordinary young writers. They convene The United Kingdom Literacy Association’s international Teaching Writing Special Interest Group and also help run their Teachers’ Writing Group. Ross was the lead researcher on 'What is it Writing For Pleasure teachers do that makes the difference?' Their work continues to focus on the learning and teaching of young writers and is informed by their ongoing work with classroom teachers and early years educators.
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Preface

Some years ago, we were teaching at our local primary school and we came to the conclusion that we were probably the worst teachers of writing in the whole entire world. We hated doing it, we hated teaching it, and our students got terrible results. Our students also hated writing and they hated us teaching it too!

Research has since confirmed why this was, and it appears that we were far from alone. Some of you might feel like this too. The fact is that many of us didn't receive the writerly education we should have had while we were at school. We know this because research shows that a great number of teachers feel deep shame about their own writing abilities, and consequently have grown up disliking writing. A friend of ours, Paul Gardner, carried out some investigations, and found that less than 2% of teachers wrote with or for pleasure, with half reporting that they had never felt any pleasure from writing in their lives (Gardner 2014). To make matters worse, the research surrounding ITE reveals that the majority of teachers around the world leave their teacher training feeling ill-prepared to teach writing (Young & Ferguson 2023a).

This is a serious problem, because how we were taught writing at school has a strong influence on how we feel about the subject, how we think it should be taught and what we know about it - our writerly knowledge. Unfortunately, it appears from the research that, as teachers, we regularly copy the same failed writing teaching that we once received (Young & Ferguson 2021a, 2023a). We should point out that there is of course a significant minority of teachers to whom this doesn't apply - but it certainly applied to us.

We tried all the popular approaches in the UK at the time and none of them worked. We were frustrated. We wanted to do something about it. We decided that we would build a writing pedagogy from scratch and base it on what the science and research evidence said was the most effective and affecting practice (Young & Ferguson 2021a, 2022a, 2023a). We were no longer going to leave things to chance.

We conducted a total of twenty-three literature reviews spanning more than fifty years of scientific research. First, we started with the meta-analyses. For those who might not be familiar with the term, a meta-analysis is where a researcher will group many scientific studies on a particular subject in order to identify recurring patterns of effectiveness. We then read what case studies tell us about what the best performing writing teachers do in their classrooms which makes the difference. We discovered that there are 14 enduring principles which represent the most effective teaching practice. These principles all have a track record of raising standards and accelerating progress in writing. The principles are:

1. Build a community of writers
2. Treat every child as a writer
3. Read, share, think and talk about writing
4. Pursue purposeful and authentic class writing projects
5. Teach the writing processes
6. Set writing goals
7. Be reassuringly consistent
8. Pursue personal writing projects
9. Balance composition & transcription
10. Teach daily mini-lessons
11. Be a writer-teacher
12. Pupil-conference: meet children where they are
13. Connect reading & writing
14. Interconnect the principles

Interestingly, we noted that there were also six affective needs (relating to the emotions) that teachers should attend to in order to help children write happily and successfully. These needs are:
Once these principles and affective needs were identified, we reviewed the research on each one to help us better understand what we could be doing in our classroom to make the difference. In the end, we decided to call our approach the *Writing For Pleasure* approach. And now, for us, *Writing For Pleasure* has become simply a synonym for world-class writing teaching.

We began using this new approach, and it was having a transformative impact on our students. We moved to another school to see if it would work in another context, and it did. We then started to write about the pedagogy online, and other teachers started reporting that they were getting the same great results that we were.

Fast forward to 2019, and we were lucky enough to be given a research grant in conjunction with the Goldsmiths’ Company and University Of Sussex. We travelled around to see what it was these other ‘Writing For Pleasure’ teachers were doing. What was special about this study was that, to participate, the teachers had to show that they had a track record for accelerating children’s progress, and that their children reported that they loved to write and felt their affective writerly needs were being met.

What we found out from all this work has since been published as a book called *Writing For Pleasure: Theory, Research & Practice* (Young & Ferguson 2021a) and the establishment of The Writing For Pleasure Centre.

The Writing For Pleasure Centre is now informed by over 600 pieces of literature, case study work, action research by teachers in our affiliate schools, and empirical research on the subject of teaching writing (Young & Ferguson 2023a).

The Writing For Pleasure approach involves children and teachers writing together every single day. They write for many different purposes, and for a variety of audiences. They are moved to write about what they are most knowledgeable and passionate about. They also write to deepen their responses and understandings of what they read. They write to transform their own (and others’) thinking about what they learn in the wider curriculum subjects. They write to entertain, to paint with words, to persuade and share their opinions, to teach others, to make a record of things they don’t want to forget, and to reflect on their own thoughts and personal experiences. They write about themselves and their cultures. They also write to reflect and sustain the cultures of people they might not have met. They share their writing and talk about themselves as writers with their peers, teachers and caregivers. They learn how to live the writer’s life.

Pupils explore new genres of writing through whole class writing projects. Together, they discuss the purpose of the writing project, explore its basic features, and study mentor texts together. They consider who they would like to write their pieces for and what they would like to write about most. Students are taught how to use the same features and expert techniques they identified from the mentor texts in their own compositions. They learn how to attend to their spellings, handwriting, grammar, and sentence construction. This helps them write happily and fluently. Pupils acquire a great deal of craft knowledge – what we call *craft moves*. This includes writerly strategies and techniques for negotiating the writing processes. We want children to know how they can take a germ of an idea and see it through to publication independently and successfully. Students are supported by being provided with clear processes and ambitious writing goals. They are given ample time and instruction in how to plan and how to improve on what they have already written through specific revision and proof-reading sessions.
Pupils receive daily in-the-moment verbal feedback and responsive assessment-based individualised instruction through teacher-pupil conferencing. These conversations are designed to push the writer and move their writing forward. Pupils are given many opportunities to discuss their compositions with their teachers and peers. At least one hour a day is devoted to the explicit teaching of writing and, within this time, children are engaged in writing meaningfully for a sustained period. We believe this is the only way they can learn about the discipline of writing and of being a writer. Across a school day, children also have opportunities to write about their reading and in response to their learning in other subjects. Importantly, pupils have access to personal writing journals which travel freely between home and school. We want children to live the writer's life and to be in a constant state of composition.

Genuine writing communities are created in classrooms. Children write in positive and enthusiastic writing environments which are headed up by passionate writer-teachers. Classrooms feel like a mixture of creative writing workshops and professional publishing houses. The approach is rigorous, highly-organised and reassuringly consistent. Pupils are encouraged to take risks and to be innovative, but also to write with focus and serious intent. Teaching is responsive - depending on what individual children need instruction in most. Whether they are in Nursery or Year Six and regardless of where they are in their language development or writerly experience, all children are treated as writers and are helped not only to write pieces which are successful in terms of the objectives of the curriculum but also meaningful to them as young authors.

Felicity Ferguson & Ross Young
Introduction

- Toni Morrison

Writing is the most cognitively demanding activity we ask our pupils to undertake while they are at school. It requires them to draw on at least thirteen different cognitive resources simultaneously. Cognitive psychology has revealed the amazing complexity of what children need, and need to know, in order to learn how to write competently (Young & Ferguson 2022a). It is therefore necessary for teachers to have a pedagogy for writing which takes account of all the many different elements involved in helping children not just to write, but to write well.

Research has shown that there is a profound connection between effective writing instruction and reading. For example: reading, studying and discussing mentor texts, texts which match the kind of writing children are being invited to make for themselves, can yield a positive effect of +0.76 (Young & Ferguson 2021, 2023a). For children with SEND, it can be +0.94 (Young & Ferguson 2023b). To put those numbers in context, anything above a +0.4 is generally considered to have a significant positive impact on children’s writing development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sharing craft moves from literature</th>
<th>Writing about their reading</th>
<th>Establishing product goals</th>
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<tr>
<td>+1.75</td>
<td>+0.5</td>
<td>+2.03</td>
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<th>Generating ideas</th>
<th>Be a writer-teacher</th>
<th>Genre study</th>
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<tr>
<td>+0.54</td>
<td>+0.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>+1.55</td>
<td>+2.48</td>
<td>+0.94</td>
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The table above shares what we currently know about the connection between reading and effective writing teaching.

In addition:

- Having children write about their reading in reading lessons can yield an effect size of +0.5 (Young & Ferguson 2020, 2021).

- Establishing product goals for a class writing project in response to studying a variety of mentor texts can yield an effect size of +2.03 (Young & Hayden 2022; see page 45).

- Sharing and modelling how to use certain craft moves taken from literature before inviting children to use these craft moves for themselves in that day’s writing time can yield an effect size of +1.75. For children with SEND, this can be anything up to +2.09 (Young et al. 2021; see page 44).

- A major part of reading in the writing classroom is children having an opportunity to read, discuss and hear about how you crafted your own writing. Modelling how you use your reading to support your writing, providing pupils with mentor texts you’ve written, and writing alongside your pupils can yield an effect size of 0.54. For children with SEND, this can be anything up to +2.48 (Young & Ferguson 2023b).

- Inviting children to generate and plan their own ideas for their writing (including how they can take ideas from their favourite reading) can yield an effect size of 0.54. For children with SEND, this can be +1.55 (Young & Ferguson 2022b; see page 54).
In this eBook, we shine the spotlight on these particular aspects of research-based instructional practice and show how it can help young writers to write effectively, successfully and engagingly. We will explain how teachers and students should come together to share, discuss and study mentor texts as part of a class writing project (The Writing For Pleasure Centre 2023). Writing For Pleasure teachers refuse to allow writing to remain a mystery to their pupils. Instead, through a combination of mentor texts and high-quality literature, they make writing techniques utterly explicit for their young writers. We emphasise that all children need mentor texts, from the EYFS to Year 6 and beyond.

In this eBook, we cover:

- How to read deeply yourself, as a writer-teacher reads.
- How to teach children to read deeply as a writer reads.
- What mentor texts do for writers.
- How mentor texts make writing techniques visible and available for teachers and children to use.
- How to choose and use mentor texts within a Writing For Pleasure pedagogy.
- How to find craft moves from your reading to use in your own writing.
- The untold benefits of writing your own mentor texts as a writer-teacher.
- Practical advice on how to write mentor texts across different age-groups and genres.
- Advice and activities which help children get the most out of studying mentor texts.
- How to leverage high-quality literature in your instruction to help you model and teach powerful craft moves.
- A book list of great texts which teach great writing: mentor texts for 3-103 year olds.
Conclusion

Writing is slippery stuff. How does anyone learn to do it well?
- Ralph Fletcher

Properly used, a mentor text does what it says on the tin - it teaches. It offers children possibilities for their own compositions, and the chance to see the writer's craft in action and move their own writing forward in a long-term way. It's not a model to be unthinkingly copied or imitated. As we've seen, mentor texts help children develop the crucial connection between reading and writing; they can be read, re-read, discussed and returned to at any stage of the writing process, particularly during idea generation, conferencing, revising, and proof-reading. They also form the basis of what we call product goals - goals which help children know what they have to do to write successfully and meaningfully - and mini-lessons, which show them how to do it. And following on from our determined advice that you should find your own mentors to help you write your own texts, we suggest that you use those you have written in a professional development capacity by bringing them to teacher study groups, where you can study the writers' craft together and think about how to bring that learning back to your young apprentice writers.
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- Young, R., Ferguson, F. (2022b) No More: I Don’t Know What To Write About. Lessons That Help Children Generate Great Ideas Brighton: The Writing For Pleasure Centre
- Young, R., Ferguson, F. (2022c) The Writing For Pleasure Centre’s Grammar Mini-Lessons For 5-11 Year Olds Brighton: The Writing For Pleasure Centre
- Young, R., Ferguson, F. (2022d) The Writing For Pleasure Centre’s Sentence-Level Instruction: Lessons That Help Children Find Their Style And Voice Brighton: The Writing For Pleasure Centre
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- Young, R., Govender, N., Kaufman, D., Ferguson, F. (2022a) Writing Realities Brighton: The Writing For Pleasure Centre
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Further Reading

- Gallagher, K. (2014) Making the most of mentor texts, Educational Leadership, 71(7), 28–33
- Hubble, G., Lamb, H. (2014) Building Momentum in Writing Instruction Through the Use of Mentor Texts In Texas Association For Literacy Education Yearbook pp. 16-25
- Premont, D., Young, T., Wilcox, B., Dean, D., Morrison, T. (2017) Picture Books as Mentor Texts for 10th Grade Struggling Writers, Literacy Research and Instruction, 56:4, 290–310
## Class Writing Projects & Mentor Texts

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<th>Class writing project:</th>
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A list of great texts which teach great writing:
Mentor texts for 3-103 year olds

**EYFS**

**Early List Books**

**ABC Books** [LINK]

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar’s ABC Board Book
- A Little Alphabet Board Book - Oliver Jeffers
- Roald Dahl’s ABC
- ABC Zoo - Rod Campbell
- The Calypso Alphabet - John Agard
- Dinosaurs from A To Z - Cryss Bills
- B Is for Baby - Atinuke & Angela Brooksbank
- Animal ABC – Nikolas Ilic
- Animal ABC – Jannie Ho

**Counting Books** [LINK]

- I Can Count to 100 - Christie Hainsby
- The Counting Book – Judy Hindley
- Best Counting Book Ever - Richard Scarry
- 5 Little Ducks - Ian Beck
- Ten Nine Eight - Molly Bang
- Handa’s Hen - Eileen Browne
- Count With Little Fish – Lucy Cousins

**I Love… Books** [LINK]

- Goodnight Moon - Margaret Wise Brown
- My Brown Bear Barney - Dorothy Butler
- The Baby’s Catalogue - Allan & Janet Ahlberg
- I Like Bees, I Don’t Like Honey – Simon Bishop & Fiona Lumbers

**I Wish… Books** [LINK]

- Astro Girl - Ken Wilson-Max
- I Wish I Could Fly - Ron Maris

**My Book Of Food** [LINK]

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Clarke
- Handa’s Surprise - Eileen Browne
- Eat Your Peas- Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt
- Food - Jan Pienkowski
- Baby Touch: Food - Ladybird

**My Book Of Animals** [LINK]

- Dear Zoo - Rod Campbell
- First 100 Animals - Roger Priddy
My Book Of First Words [LINK]

- First 100 Words - Heather Amery
- First 100 Animals - Friggens, Munday & Oliver
- 100 First Dinosaur Words - Dawn Sirett

My Book Of People [LINK]

- What If We Were All The Same? - C.M.Harris
- Busiest People Ever - Richard Scarry

Pattern Book [LINK]

- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?- Bill Martin Jnr
- Where’s Spot? - Eric Hill
- Would You Rather? - John Burningham
- My Brown Bear Barney – Dorothy Butler

Things I Like [LINK]

- Things I Like - Anthony Browne
- I Like Books - Anthony Browne

**EYFS Narrative Books**

A Story About Me [LINK]

- The Snowy Day - Ezra Jack Keats
- Peter’s Chair - Ezra Jack Keats
- Alfie Gets In First - Shirley Hughes
- The Dancing Class - Helen Oxenbury
- The Blanket - John Burningham
- So Much - Trish Cooke

A Story About... [LINK]

- My Grandma Is Wonderful- Nick Butterworth
- The Sister Book- Todd Parr
- Smart Aunties - Nick Sharratt
- Full, Full, Full Of Love - Trish Cooke
- My Brother Sean - Petronella Breinberg

Animal Stories [LINK]

- Farmer Duck - Martin Waddell
- Mog The Forgetful Cat - Judith Kerr
- Ginger Finds A Home - Charlotte Voake
- Mr Scruff – Simon James
- Cheeky Monkey – Zehra Hicks

Character-focused Stories [LINK]

- Not Now, Bernard - David Mc Kee
- The Snowy Day- Ezra Jack Keats
- Peter’s Chair - Ezra Jack Keats
- Jamela’s Dress - Niki Daly
- The Tiger Who Came For Tea – Judith Kerr

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- The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson
- The Elephant & The Bad Baby – Elfrida Vipont & Raymond Briggs
- Beegu – Alexis Deacon
- Rosie’s Walk – Pat Hutchins
- Avocado Baby – John Burningham
- The Snowman – Raymond Briggs

Journey Stories [LINK]
- Going On A Bear Hunt - Michael Rosen
- The Spooky Old Tree - Stan and Jan Berenstain
- Whatever Next! - Jill Murphy

My Friend... Stories [LINK]
- Big Dog, Little Dog - P.D. Eastman
- Leon And Bob - Simon James
- Pumpkin Soup - Helen Cooper

Once Upon A Time... Stories [LINK]
- Once Upon A Time - John Prater
- One Day, The End - Rebecca Kai Dotlich

Someone At Home Stories [LINK]
- My Brother - Anthony Browne
- My Mum - Anthony Browne
- My Dad Is Brilliant - Nick Butterworth

True Stories [LINK]
- An Evening At Alfie’s - Shirley Hughes
- Stanley And Rhoda - Rosemary Wells
- Alfie Gets In First - Shirley Hughes
- If All The World Were - Joseph Coelho & Allison Colpoys
- Polonius The Pit Pony – Richard O’Neil & Feronia Parker-Thomas

**EYFS**

**Nonfiction Books**

All About... [LINK]
- Baby 101 series - Jonathan Litton and Thomas Elliott
- My First Encyclopaedia – Usbourne
- Lift The Flap General Knowledge – Alex Frith
- My First Book Of Planets – Bruce Betts
- First Facts Bugs – DK
- My First Yoga - DK
- Poo – Nicola Davies
- How Do Apples Grow? – Jill McDonald
- Hey, Water – Antoinette Portis
- How It Works: Tractor – Amelia Hepworth
- Tool Book – Gail Gibbons
- All About Families – Usbourne
A Book About A Place [LINK]

- A Dark, Dark Tale - Ruth Brown
- Each Peach, Pear, Plum - Allan Ahlberg and Janet Ahlberg
- What The Jackdaw Saw - Julia Donaldson

A Family & Friends Book [LINK]

- So Much - Trish Cooke
- The Family Book - Todd Parr
- Peekaboo Morning - Rachel Isadora
- Titch - Pat Hutchins
- Friends - Rob Lewis
- I Want A Friend - Tony Ross

All About Me Books [LINK]

- The Feelings Book - Todd Parr
- I Like Me - Nancy Carlson
- How Do You Feel? - Anthony Browne

KS1 Narrative Books

Story Books [LINK]

- When Willy Went To The Wedding - Judith Kerr
- The Little Mole Who Knew None Of It Was His Business - Werner Holzwarth & Wolf Erlbruch
- Five Minutes’ Peace - Jill Murphy
- Superhero Max - Bob Graham
- Traction Man - Mini Grey
- Winnie The Witch - Korky Paul
- The Bears Who Stayed Indoors - Susanna Gretz
- Gorilla - Anthony Browne
- The Doorbell Rang - Pat Hutchins (‘to be continued’ ending)
- Jim And The Beanstalk - Raymond Briggs (‘to be continued’ ending)
- Where The Wild Things Are - Maurice Sendak
- Would You Rather… - John Burningham (Questions inviting answers)
- Six Dinner Sid - Inga Moore
- Don’t Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus - Mo Willems
- The Pigeon HAS To Go To School - Mo Willems (Speech bubbles, large text)
- Burglar Bill - Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- Peepo! - Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- Funnybones - Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- School For Dads - Adam & Charlotte Guillain
- I Want My Hat Back - Jon Klassen
- Into The Forest - Anthony Browne
- The Dark - Lemony Snicket
- I Can Only Draw Worms- Will Mabbitt
- The Growing Story - Ruth Krauss
- This Book Just Ate My Dog - Richard Byrne
Memoir Books [LINK]

- When I Was Five - Arthur Howard
- Memoirs Of A Goldfish - Devin Scillian
- The Park In The Dark - Martin Waddell
- Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge - Mem Fox
- Grandpa Green - Lane Smith

I Loved Your Book, Here's Mine [LINK]

- The Paper-bag Princess - Robert Munsch
- When Willy Went To The Wedding - Judith Kerr
- The Little Mole Who Knew None Of It Was His Business - Werner Holzwarth & Wolf Erlbruch
- Five Minutes' Peace - Jill Murphy
- Superhero Max - Bob Graham
- Traction Man - Mini Grey
- Winnie The Witch - Korky Paul
- The Bears Who Stayed Indoors - Susanna Gretz
- The Doorbell Rang - Pat Hutchins (‘to be continued’ ending)
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- Funnybones - Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- School For Dads - Adam & Charlotte Guillain
- I Want My Hat Back - Jon Klassen
- Gorilla - Anthony Browne
- Into The Forest - Anthony Browne
- The Tunnel - Anthony Browne
- Piggybook - Anthony Browne
- The Dark - Lemony Snicket
- I Can Only Draw Worms - Will Mabbitt
- The Growing Story - Ruth Krauss
- This Book Just Ate My Dog - Richard Byrne
- I Really Want The Cake - Simon Philip
- I Really Want To Win - Simon Philip
- I Really Want To Shout - Simon Philip
- Tortoise's Dream - Joanna Troughton

Let's Make A Picturebook Series [LINK]

- The Scaredy Squirrel series - Melanie Watt
- The Knuffle Bunny series - Mo Willems
- The Pigeon series - Mo Willems
- The Meg And Mog series - Helen Nicoll and Jan Pienkowski
- The Nutshell Library series - Maurice Sendak
- The Bear & Mouse series - Bonny Becker
- The Olivia series - Ian Falcone
- The Charlie & Lola series - Lauren Child
- The Peter Rabbit series - Beatrix Potter

Let's Make A Chapter Book Series [LINK]

- Frog & Toad series - Arnold Lobel
- Oliver & Amanda Pig series - Jean Van Leeuwen
- Little Bear series - Else Holmelund Minarik

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• Captain Underpants series - Dav Pilkey
• A Bargain For Frances - Russell Hoban and Lillian Hoban

Fables [LINK]

• Very Short Fables to Read Together by Mary Ann Hoberman
• Fables by Arnold Lobel
• The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde
• Fifty Fables for Children by Johann Wilhelm
• Cautionary Tales for Children by Hilaire Belloc
• Aesop's Fables by Michael Rosen
• Aesop's Fables by Michael Morpurgo
• Aesop's Funky Fables by Vivian French
• The Best Aesop's Fables For Little Kids by Lily Wilson
• Aesop's Fables For Little Children by Usborne

Fairytales [LINK]

Collections

• Usborne Illustrated Fairy Tales by Rosie Dickins
• A First Book of Fairy Tales by Mary Hoffman and Julie Downing
• Illustrated Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales by Usborne Publishing
• A Year Full of Stories by Angela McAllister & Christopher Corr
• English Fairy Tales Collected by Joseph Jacobs
• The Illustrated Anansi by Philip M. Sherlock

Individual tales (Picturebooks)

• Hansel and Gretel by Anthony Browne
• The Princess and the Pea by Lauren Child
• Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella by Robert D. San Souci
• The Twelve Dancing Princesses by Errol le Cain
• Thorn Rose by Errol le Cain
• Molly Whuppie by Walter de la Mare
• Anansi and Mr Dry-Bone by Fiona French
• The Old Woman and the Red Pumpkin by Betsy Bang
• Bimwili and the Zimwi by Verna Aardema
• Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
• What Made Tiddalik Laugh by Joanna Troughton
• Tortoise's Dream by Joanna Troughton

Subversive fairy and folk tales

• Fairy Tales: The Villain's Version by Kaye Umansky
• Mixed Up Fairy Tales by Hilary Robinson
• The Cat, the Dog, Little Red, the Exploding Eggs, the Wolf and Grandma's Wardrobe by Christyan Fox
• Snow White in New York by Fiona French
• Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl
• Once Upon a Wood by Chris Riddell
• After the Fall by Dan Santat
• The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka
• Inside the Villains by Clotilde Perrin
• Beware of the Bears by Alan MacDonald
• The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas
• The Wolf's Story: What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood by Toby Forward
• Little Red Reading Hood by Lucy Rowland
• Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs by Mo Willems
• The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka
• Prince Cinders by Babette Cole
• The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
• Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs
• Seriously Silly Stories by Lawrence Anholt
• Not All Princesses Dress in Pink by Jane Yolen
• The Knight Who Wouldn’t Fight by Helen Docherty

KS1
Nonfiction Books

Information Books [LINK]

• Disgusting Critters: The Bat - Elise Gravel
• Yucky Worms - Vivian French
• Why Do Cats Meow? - Nick Crumpton & Lily Snowden-Fine
• Why Don't Fish Drown? - Anna Claybourne & Claire Goble
• The Emperor’s Egg - Martin Jenkins
• How Dogs Really Work - Alan Snow
• Why Do Dogs Sniff Bottoms? - Nick Crumpton & Lily Snowden-Fine
• Animals Brag About Their Bottoms - Maki Sato & Brian Bergstrom
• When Cloud Became A Cloud - Rob Hodgson
• Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember by Steve Jenkins
• Pink Is for Blobfish: Discovering the World’s Perfectly Pink Animals by Jess Keating
• Sun: One in a Billion by Stacey McAnulty
• The Cat in the Hat’s Learning Library by Dr. Seuss

Curiosity Letters [LINK]

• Dear World, How Are You? - Toby Little
• Dragon Post – Emma Yarlett
• Yours Sincerely Giraffe – Megumi Iwasa and Jun Takabatake
• Paddington’s Post – Michael Bond
• Meerkat Mail – Emily Gravett
• Dear Teacher – Amy Husband
• Peppa Pig: Peppa’s Post – Peppa Pig
• Mr Busy’s Post: A Letter Book – Egmont Publishing

Instruction Books [LINK]

• How To Wash A Woolly Mammoth by Michelle Robinson
• How To Babysit A Grandma by Jean Reagan
• How To Babysit A Grandad by Jean Reagan
• How To Feed Your Cheeky Monkey by Jane Clarke
• How To Bath Your Little Dinosaur by Jane Clarke
• How To Brush Your Teeth With Snappy Croc by Jane Clarke
• How To Tuck In Your Sleepy Lion by Jane Clarke
• How To by Julie Morstad
• This Is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe
• Everything You Need to Build a Treehouse by Carter Higgins
• How to Look After Your Cat by Colin Hawkins

Let’s Make A Magazine [LINK]

• Dot Magazine
• Chrip Magazine
• Okido Magazine
• The Week Magazine
• First News
KS1

Poetry

My First Poetry Anthology [LINK]

- Little Poems For Tiny Ears - Lin Oliver & Tomie dePaola
- A Great Big Cuddle: Poems For The Very Young - Michael Rosen & Chris Riddell
- The Puffin Book Of Fantastic First Poems - June Crebbin
- Here's A Little Poem: A Very First Book Of Poetry - Jane Yolen
- Poems Out Loud! First Poems To Read & Perform - Ladybird Books
- I Am A Potato - John Hegley
- Jelly Boots Smelly Boots - Michael Rosen
- First Rhymes - Rod Campbell

My First Haiku Book [LINK]

- Haiku Baby - Betsy E. Snyder
- Haiku Night – Betsy E. Snyder
- Little Poems For Tiny Ears - Lin Oliver & Tomie dePaola
- A Great Big Cuddle: Poems For The Very Young - Michael Rosen & Chris Riddell
- The Puffin Book Of Fantastic First Poems - June Crebbin
- Here's A Little Poem: A Very First Book Of Poetry - Jane Yolen
- Poems Out Loud! First Poems To Read & Perform - Ladybird Books
- I Am A Potato - John Hegley
- Jelly Boots Smelly Boots - Michael Rosen
- First Rhymes - Rod Campbell

KS2

Narrative Books

Fables [LINK]

- Very Short Fables to Read Together by Mary Ann Hoberman
- Fables by Arnold Lobel
- The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde
- Fifty Fables for Children by Johann Wilhelm
- Cautionary Tales for Children by Hilaire Belloc
- Aesop's Fables by Michael Rosen
- Aesop's Fables by Michael Morpurgo
- Aesop's Funky Fables by Vivian French
- The Best Aesop's Fables For Little Kids by Lily Wilson
- Aesop's Fables For Little Children by Usborne

Fairytales [LINK]

Collections

- Usborne Illustrated Fairy Tales by Rosie Dickins
- A First Book of Fairy Tales by Mary Hoffman and Julie Downing
- Illustrated Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales by Usborne Publishing
- A Year Full of Stories by Angela McAllister & Christopher Corr
- English Fairy Tales Collected by Joseph Jacobs
- The Illustrated Anansi by Philip M. Sherlock
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- The Twelve Dancing Princesses by Errol le Cain
- Thorn Rose by Errol le Cain
- Molly Whuppie by Walter de la Mare
- Anansi and Mr Dry-Bone by Fiona French
- The Old Woman and the Red Pumpkin by Betsy Bang
- Bimwili and the Zimwi by Verna Aardema
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- Tortoise’s Dream by Joanna Troughton

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- Inside the Villains by Clotilde Perrin
- Beware of the Bears by Alan MacDonald
- The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas
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- Little Red Reading Hood by Lucy Rowland
- Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs by Mo Willems
- The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka
- Prince Cinders by Babette Cole
- The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
- Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs
- Seriously Silly Stories by Lawrence Anholt
- Not All Princesses Dress in Pink by Jane Yolen
- The Knight Who Wouldn’t Fight by Helen Docherty

Character-driven And Setting-focused Short Stories [LINK]

- A Sackful of Stories for Eight-Year-Olds by Pat Thomson
- Story Shop: Stories for Literacy by Nikki Gamble
- Stories for Eight-Year-Olds by Wendy Cooling
- Summertime Stories by Enid Blyton
- Scary Stories by Val Bierman
- Topsy Turvy Tales by Leila Berg
- Granny’s Wonderful Chair by Frances Brown (collection)
- Shakespeare Stories and Greek Myths by Orchard Publishing
- Tales from the Caribbean by Trish Cooke
- Short Christmas Stories by Maggie Pearson

Developed Short Stories [LINK]

- A Sackful of Stories for Eight-Year-Olds by Pat Thomson
- Story Shop: Stories for Literacy by Nikki Gamble
- Stories for Eight-Year-Olds by Wendy Cooling
- Summertime Stories by Enid Blyton
- Scary Stories by Val Bierman
- Topsy Turvy Tales by Leila Berg
- Granny's Wonderful Chair by Frances Brown (collection)
- Shakespeare Stories and Greek Myths by Orchard Publishing
- Tales from the Caribbean by Trish Cooke
- Short Christmas Stories by Maggie Pearson
- Mind-Swapping Madness by Tom E. Moffatt
- Body-Hopping Hysterics by Tom E. Moffatt
- Mixed-Up Mayhem by Tom E. Moffatt

**Graphic Novels** [LINK]

- The British Library Website for examples of graphic novels in process [https://www.bl.uk/collection-items?formats=comic%20book]
- The Arrival by Shaun Tan
- Northern Lights: The Graphic Novel by Philip Pullman
- The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman
- The Adventures of John Blake by Philip Pullman
- Bravo Mr William Shakespeare by Marcia Williams
- The Iliad and the Odyssey by Marcia Williams
- Chaucer's Canterbury Tales by Marcia Williams
- Oliver Twist by Marcia Williams
- Some Swell Pup or Are You Sure You Want a Dog by Maurice Sendak
- Mr Wolf's Class (series) by Aron Nels Steinke
- Glitch by Sarah Graley
- Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea; Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt; Peanut Butter and Jelly by Ben Clanton
- The Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell
- Hilda (series) by Luke Pearson
- Kai and the Monkey King; Arthur and the Golden Rope; Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx by Joe Todd Stanton
- Amulet (series) by Kazu Kibuishi
- New Kid by Jerry Craft
- El Deafo by Cece Bell
- Akissi by Mathieu Sapin
- Mega Robo Bros by Neill Cameron
- Bunny vs. Monkey by Jamie Smart

**Flash-fiction** [LINK]

- Rules of Summer by Shaun Tan
- Tales From The Inner City by Shaun Tan
- Short! A Book of Very Short Stories by Kevin Crossley-Holland
- Short Too! by Kevin Crossley-Holland
- A Pocketful of Stories by Stuart Purcell
- Bonkers Short Stories by Tom E. Moffatt

**For adults**

- Microfiction edited by Jerome Stern
- Best Microfiction edited by various
- New Micro: Exceptionally Short Fiction by James Thomas & Robert Scotellaro
- The Rose Metal Press Field Guide To Writing Flash-Fiction edited by Tara Masih
- Flash Fiction International: Very Short Stories from Around the World edited by James Thomas
- Sudden Fiction: American Short-Short Stories edited by Robert Shapard
- New Sudden Fiction: Short-Short Stories from America and Beyond edited by Robert Shapard and James Thomas
- Flash Fiction Forward 80 Very Short Stories by Robert Shapard
- Writing Flash Fiction by Carly Berg
Memoir (Personal Narrative) [LINK]

- The BBC's 'childhood' archive website
- The British Library's 'children's playground games' archive website
- Michael Rosen's Sad Book by Michael Rosen
- Quick, Let's Get Out of Here by Michael Rosen
- Hey World! Here I Am by Jean Little
- Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street by Roni Schotter
- When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant
- My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother by Patricia Polacco
- Gregory Cool by Caroline Binch
- Down by the River: Afro-Caribbean Rhymes, Games and Songs for Children by Grace Hallworth
- When I Was Nine by James Stevenson
- Keeping Clear of Paradise Street by Brian Moses
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend
- Home by Carson Ellis
- Homecoming by Michael Morpurgo
- Boy by Roald Dahl
- Going Solo by Roald Dahl
- War Boy: A Wartime Childhood by Michael Foreman
- The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- What I'll Remember When I'm a Grown Up by Gina Willner-Pard
- The Fib, the Swap, the Trick and other stories by George Layton

KS2
Nonfiction Books

Information Texts [LINK]

- The Earth Book by Jonathan Litton
- Dragonology: The Complete Book of Dragons by Dugald Steer, Helen Ward and Douglas Carrel
- True or False by Andrea Mills
- Until I Met Dudley by Roger McGough
- Wallace & Gromit: The Complete Cracking Contraptions Manual by Derek Smith and Graham Bleathman
- Flanimals by Ricky Gervais
- Sharks For Kids by David McGuire
- Spi-ku: A Clutter of Short Verse on Eight Legs by Leslie Bulion
- This Is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe
- The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins
- The Way Things Work by David Macaulay and Neil Ardley
- Corpse Talk (series) by Adam Murphy and Lisa Murphy
- A Viking Adventure; A Roman Adventure; An Egyptian Adventure by The Histronauts
- Chop, Sizzle, Wow by The Silver Spoon
- What's The Difference? by Strack Plantevin and Guillaume Plantevin
- Creaturepedia; Plantopedia by Adrienne Barman
- The World of the Unknown (series): Ghosts, Monsters, Mysteries of the Unknown, UFOs by Usborne
- Ick! Delightfully Disgusting Animal Dinners, Dwellings, and Defences by Melissa Stewart
- Itch! Everything You Didn't Want to Know About What Makes You Scratch by Anita Sanchez
- Giant Squid by Candace Fleming

Instructions [LINK]

- How To by Julie Morstad
- This Is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe
- Everything You Need to Build a Treehouse by Carter Higgins
- How to Look After Your Cat by Colin Hawkins

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Explanation Texts [LINK]

- How to Handle Grownups by Jim Eldridge
- Why? Encyclopaedia: Brilliant Answers to Baffling Questions by DK
- How Dogs Really Work by Alan Snow
- How Things Work by Tamara J. Resler
- How Things Work Encyclopedia by DK
- The Way Things Work by David Macaulay and Neil Ardley
- How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth by Michelle Robinson
- What on Earth Happened?: The Complete Story of the Planet, Life and People from the Big Bang to the Present Day by Christopher Lloyd
- Before And After by Matthias Arégui and Anne-Margot Ramstein

Discussion Texts [LINK]

- The Philosophy Book by Dorling Kindersley
- This New Season: Our Class, Our Schools, Our World by Chris Searle
- Stepney Words by Chris Searle
- England: Poems From A School
- Poetry For A Change by Otter-Barry
- If I Were In Charge Of The World by Judith Viorst
- Real-Life Mysteries by Susan Martineau
- Thinkers’ Games by Jason Buckley
- Politics for Beginners by Louie Stowell
- The If Machine: Philosophical Enquiry in the Classroom by Peter Worley
- The Philosophy Shop by Peter Worley
- History’s Mysteries by Kitson Jazynka and National Geographic Kids
- What Is Right and Wrong? Who Decides? Where Do Values Come From? And Other Big Questions by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young
- First News
- Newsround

Science Reports [LINK]

- How to Be a Scientist by Steve Mould
- 101 Great Science Experiments by DK
- 101 Brilliant Things for Kids to Do in Science by Dawn Isaac

Persuasive Letter (For Personal Gain) [LINK]

- How To Change The World by Rashmi Sirdeshpander
- Dear World, How Are You? By Toby Little

Advocacy Journalism (Newspaper Report) [LINK]

- Local paper
- Community magazines
- Amnesty International's website (www.amnesty.org.uk)
- First News
- The Week
- The Happy News
- Charity magazines

Community Activism (Magazine Articles And Persuasive Letters) [LINK]

- Local papers and First News
- This Book Is Not Rubbish by Isabel Thomas
- Politics for Beginners by Usborne
- All About Politics: How Governments Make the World Go Round by DK Publishing
- Rise Up: Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories by Amanda Li
People's History [LINK]

- Visit your library or local history centre where you will find many examples of people's history, often self-published, by local historians.
- Reader's Digest Local History Detective by Reader's Digest
- QueenSpark Books is an interesting website which showcases local history publishing (adult only)

Biography [LINK]

- Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo
- Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different by Ben Brooks
- Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky
- Little People, Big Dreams (series) by Frances Lincoln Children's Books

Autobiography [LINK]

- How to Write Your Life Story by Ralph Fletcher
- Looking Back: A Book of Memories by Lois Lowry
- The BBC's 'childhood' archive website
- The British Library's 'children's playground games' archive website
- Michael Rosen's Sad Book by Michael Rosen
- Quick, Let's Get Out of Here by Michael Rosen
- Hey World! Here I Am by Jean Little
- Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street by Roni Schotter
- When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant
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- Gregory Cool by Caroline Binch
- Down by the River: Afro-Caribbean Rhymes, Games and Songs for Children by Grace Hallworth
- When I Was Nine by James Stevenson
- Keeping Clear of Paradise Street by Brian Moses
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend
- Home by Carson Ellis
- Homecoming by Michael Morpurgo
- Boy by Roald Dahl
- Going Solo by Roald Dahl
- War Boy: A Wartime Childhood by Michael Foreman
- The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- What I'll Remember When I'm a Grown Up by Gina Willner-Pard
- The Fib, the Swap, the Trick and other stories by George Layton

Historical Account [LINK]

- History's Mysteries by Kitson Jazynka and National Geographic Kids
- Our Island Story by H.E. Marshall
- What on Earth Happened? by Christopher Lloyd
- What Happened When in the World by DK Publishing
- 100 Things to Know About History by various authors

KS2

Poetry

Animals And Pets Poetry [LINK]

- Cats (and Other Crazy Cuddlies) by Richard and Helen Exley
- The Nation's Best Animal Poems by various authors
- The Penguin in Lost Property by Jan Dean and Roger Stevens
- Animal Poems – Jennifer Curry
- Pet Poems – Jennifer Curry
The Natural World [LINK]

- Poetry Please: The Seasons by Various authors
- Vacation Time Poems For Children by Nikki Giovanni
- I Am The Seed That Grew The Tree by Fiona Waters
- All the Wild Wonders: Poems of our Earth by Wendy Cooling
- A Year Of Nature Poems by Joseph Coelho
- Overheard In A Tower Block by Joseph Coelho
- Orionmagazine.org: an American based nature poetry journal and website

Sensory Poetry [LINK]

- Sensational by Roger Mc Gough
- Unexplained Things about My Dad (Ian McMillan, p 25)
- The Puddle (Jean Sprackland, p 29)
- Who Has Seen the Wind? (Christina Rossetti, p 49)
- Point Box (Phoebe Hesketh, p 58)
- What is . . . the Sun? (Wes Magee, p 65)
- Quieter than Snow (Berlie Doherty, p 81)
- November Night (Adelaide Crapsey, p 92)
- Joy at the Sound (Roger McGough, p 97)
- Pleasant Sounds (John Clare, p 102)
- Life is a Bucket (Roger McGough, p 110)
- Peach (Rose Rauter, p 115)
- The Apple’s Song (Edwin Morgan, p 116)
- Gregory Gruber (Marian Swinger, p 190)
- Vegan (Benjamin Zephaniah, p 200)
- Hot Food (Michael Rosen, p 204)
- How to Eat a Poem (Eve Merriam in ‘You’ll Love This Stuff’ edited by Morag Styles, p 96)
- The Beach (William Hart-Smith, in ‘You’ll Love This Stuff’ edited by Morag Styles, p 85)
- Stopping by Woods (Robert Frost, in ‘A Shame to Miss’ edited by Anne Fine, vol. 1, p 113)
- Blackberry eating by Galway Kinnell [LINK]

Inspired By... Poetry [LINK]

- Love That Dog by Sharon Creech
- Poetry for a Change by various
- Rhythm and Poetry by Karl Nova
- Happy Poems by Roger McGough
- Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
- Poetry Jump-Up! by Grace Nichols
- You’ll Love This Stuff by Morag Styles
- Things You Find in a Poet’s Beard by A.F. Harold

Poetry That Hides In Things [LINK]

- All My Own Stuff by Adrian Mitchell
- Love That Dog by Sharon Creech
- Happy Poems by Roger McGough
- Sky In The Pie by Roger McGough
- Moon Juice by Kate Wakeling
- Cloud Soup by Kate Wakeling
Anthology Of Life [LINK]

- What I'll Remember When I Am a Grownup by Gina Willner-Pardo
- 101 Poems about Childhood edited by Michael Donaghy
- Grow Your Own Poems by Peter Dixon
- Been to Yesterday: Poems of a Life by Lee Hopkins (adult only)
- Baseball, Snakes, and Summer Squash: Poems about Growing Up by Donald Graves
- The Best of Children's Poetry edited by Jennifer Curry
- Heard It in the Playground by Allan Ahlberg
- Please Mrs Butler by Allan Ahlberg
- A Kid in My Class by Rachel Rooney
- Overheard in a Tower Block by Joseph Coelho
- Quick, Let's Get Out of Here by Michael Rosen
- Neighbourhood Odes by Gary Soto
- A Fire in My Hands by Gary Soto
- A Caribbean Dozen: Poems from 13 Caribbean Poets by Grace Nichols
- Swings and Shadows: A Childhood in Poetry by Anne Harvey
- The Nation's Favourite Poems of Childhood by Esther Rantzen (adult only)

Social And Political Poetry [LINK]

- If I Were in Charge of the World and Other Worries by Judith Viorst
- Dreams of Freedom: In Words and Pictures by Amnesty International
- Reaching for the Stars: Poems about Extraordinary Women and Girls by Liz Brownlee, Jan Dean and Michela Morgan
- England: Poems From a School by Kate Clanchy
- Poetry For A Change by The Arts Foundation
- Funky Chickens by Benjamin Zephaniah
- Ranters, Ravers and Rhymers: Poems by Black and Asian Poets by Farrukh Dhondy
- Rise Like Lions: Poetry for the Many by Ben Okri
- Stepney Words by Chris Searle
- World in a Classroom by Chris Searle
- Classroom of resistance by Chris Searle
- Be The Change: Poems To Help You Save The World by Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow and Roger Stevens
- Belonging Street by Mandy Coe
- The Same Inside by Roger Stevens, Matt Goodfellow and Liz Brownlee
Recommended further reading and resources

- Writing for Pleasure
  - Theory, Research and Practice

- Real World Writers
  - A Handbook for Teaching Writing with 7-11 Year Olds

- The Writing for Pleasure Centre’s Big Book of Writing Mini-Lessons
  - Lessons That Teach Powerful Craft Knowledge For 3-11 Year Olds

- Sentence-Level Instruction
  - Lessons That Help Children Find Their Style & Voice For 3-11 Year Olds (2nd Edition)

- The Writing for Pleasure Centre’s Writing Development & Assessment Toolkit For 3-11 Year Olds

- The Writing for Pleasure Centre’s Grammar Mini-Lessons For 3-11 Year Olds
  - 2nd Edition

- A Teacher’s Guide To Writing With Multilingual Children

- Writing Realities
  - First Edition

- Supporting children with SEND to be great writers
  - A guide for teachers and SENCOS

© The Writing For Pleasure Centre
Reading In The Writing Classroom will tell you everything you need to know about mentor texts. It shows you how to draw on children’s literature, including fiction, poetry and nonfiction, in the quest to find just the right texts to use as models, and then how to get the very most out of them during a class writing project. More than that, you’ll learn how easy it is to find your own literary mentors, write your own great texts tailored to your class, and, as a reader-writer-teacher, be confident that you are helping children create their own best texts too.

In this eBook, we cover:

- How to read deeply as a writer reads.
- How to teach children to read deeply as a writer reads.
- What mentor texts do for writers.
- How using mentor texts makes writing techniques visible and utterly attainable for teachers and children.
- How to find craft moves from your reading to use in your own writing.
- How children can find craft moves from their reading to use in their own writing.
- The untold benefits of writing your own mentor texts as a writer-teacher.
- Advice and activities which help children get the most out of studying mentor texts.
- A booklist of great texts which teach great writing: mentor texts for 3-103 year olds.

Using mentor texts brings reading and writing together in profound ways and is therefore an essential part of developing yourself as a world-class teacher of both reading and writing. By studying mentor texts with your class, you will be able to show them in an explicit way what writers do. Put simply, through reading and discussing powerful models, children see what ‘good writing’ is before producing it for themselves in their very own pieces.