

Reading different types of fiction in the writing classroom



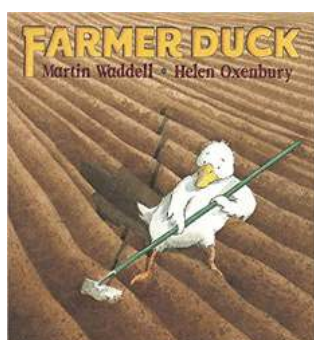
The Writing For Pleasure Centre

- Promoting research-informed writing teaching

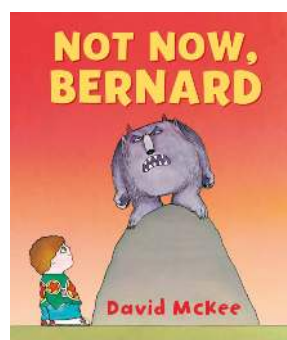
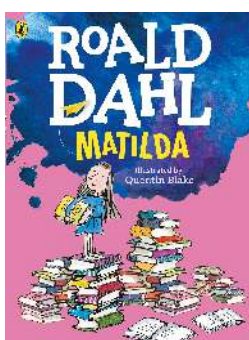
Research has shown that there is a profound connection between effective writing instruction and reading. For example: reading, studying and discussing mentor texts, texts which match the kind of writing children are being invited to make for themselves, can yield a positive effect of +0.76 (Young & 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. Too often we see teachers explaining to children that a story must have a problem and a solution. Children groan as another story mountain planning sheet is handed out (Young & Ferguson [2023](#)). Problem-solution stories don't regularly match the types of picturebooks, short stories, flash-fiction and other literature children love to read. It's therefore important that the mentor texts we share with children reflect the different types of fiction that are available to them. This way, children know they can write in these ways too as part of a class writing project. The six most common story arcs used in children's literature are:

- Steady rise (rag to riches)
- Steady fall (riches to rags)
- Fall-rise (man in hole)
- Rise-fall (Macbeth)
- Rise-fall-rise (Cinderella)
- Fall-rise-fall (The boy who cried wolf)

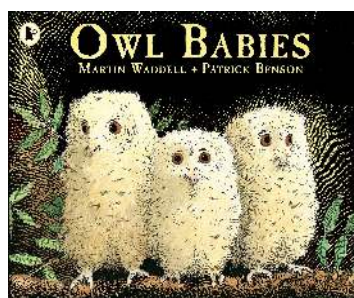
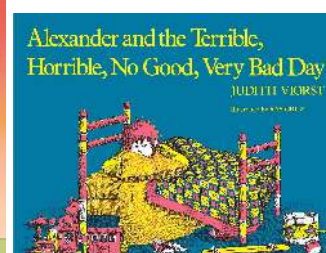
In addition you have circular (a character returning to the place or the circumstances where the story began) and cumulative stories (with a new thing on every page adding to what's gone before).



Steady rise



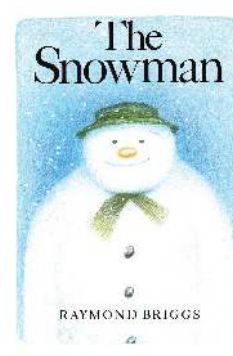
Steady fall

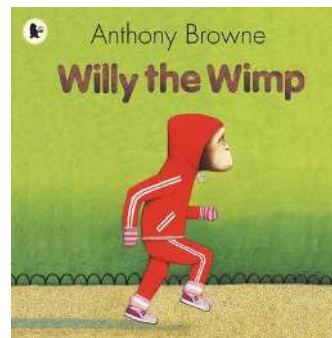
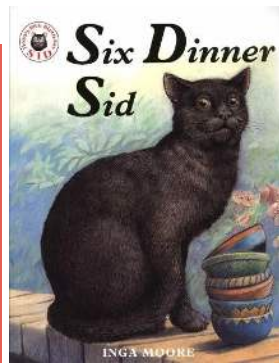
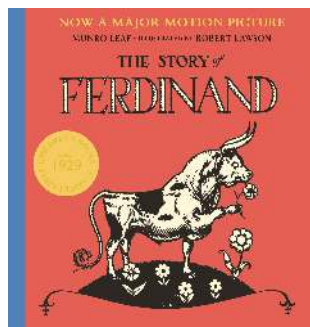


Fall-rise



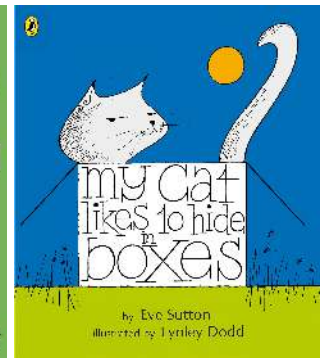
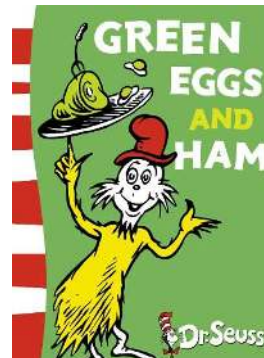
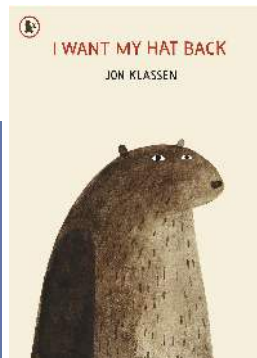
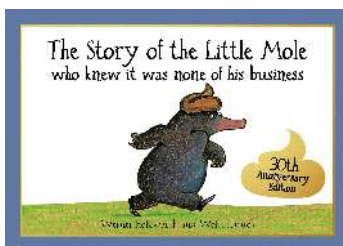
Rise-fall





Rise-fall-rise

Fall-rise-fall



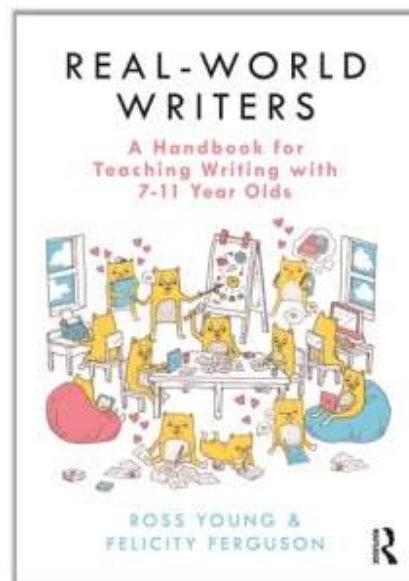
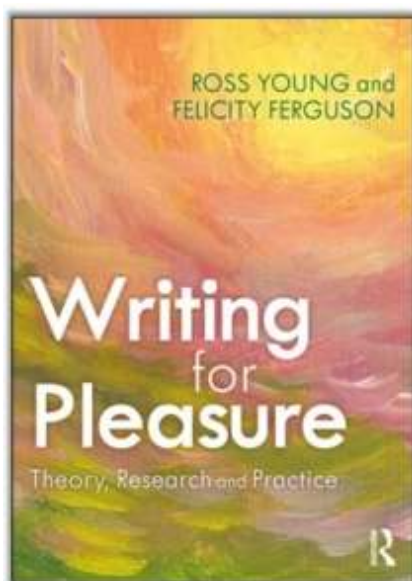
Circular

Cumulative

To find out more about teaching reading effectively in the writing classroom, why not take a look at our eBook: [Reading In The Writing Classroom: A Guide To Finding, Writing And Using Mentor Texts With Your Class.](#)

To find out more about teaching narrative story arcs to children, why not take a look at our eBook: [No More: I Don't Know What To Write Next... Lessons That Help Children Plan Great Writing.](#)

Recommended further reading and resources



The Writing For Pleasure Centre's

Writing Development &
Assessment Toolkit
For 3-11 Year Olds.



Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

The Writing For Pleasure Centre's

Grammar
Mini-Lessons
For 3-11 Year Olds

2nd Edition



Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

Sentence-Level Instruction

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



Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

A Teacher's Guide To Writing With Multilingual Children



Felicity Ferguson & Ross Young

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

Getting Children Up & Running As Book-makers:

Lessons For EYFS-KS1 Teachers



Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

Supporting children with SEND to be great writers

A guide for teachers and SENCOS



Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

Getting success criteria right for writing

Helping 3-11 year olds
write their best texts



Ross Young & Tobias Hayden

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

No More: I Don't Know What To Write Next...

Lessons That Help Children
Plan Great Writing



Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

Rosenshine's Principles Of Instruction & The Principles Of World- Class Writing Instruction



Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson

The Writing For Pleasure Centre

