

Bibliography for Writing with Talented Students

Suggested materials for teachers:

- Fletcher, R. (2006). *Boy writers: Reclaiming their voices*. Portland ME: Stenhouse.
- Fletcher, R. (1993). *What a writer needs*. Portsmouth NH: Heinemann.
- Graves, D. H. (1994). *A fresh look at writing*. Portsmouth NH: Heinemann.
- Goldberg, N. (1986). *Writing down the bones*. Boston: Shambhala.
- Goldberg, N. (2007). *Old friend from far away: The practice of writing memoir*. New York: Free Press.
- Peck, R. (2002). *Invitations to the world: Teaching and writing for the young*. New York: Dial Books.
- Ray, K. W. (1999) *Wondrous words: Writers and writing in the elementary classroom*. Urbana, IL: NCTE.
- Ray, K. W. (2001). *The writing workshop: Working through the hard parts (and they're all hard parts)*. Urbana, IL: NCTE.
- Tucker, S. (1992). *Writing poetry*. Glenview, IL: Goodyear Books.

Materials for instructional use with students:

Browne, Anthony. *Voices in the Park*. (1998). New York: DK Publishing. A wonderful tool for teaching point of view and voice. The story is told by four characters as they spend time at the park. (Picture book)

Codell, Esmé Rajii, *Sahara Special* (2003). New York: Scholastic. Sahara is a reader and a writer, although few know it. In her second try at 5th grade, Sahara encounters a different kind of teacher, Miss Pointy, who creates a classroom environment in which language and literature are celebrated.

Fleishman, Paul, *Seedfolks* (1997). New York: HarperCollins. The setting is an urban neighborhood, and each chapter represents a different character in this diverse population. Strangers become acquaintances, even friends, and barriers break down as they learn about each other through their community garden. Excellent model for *voice* and *point of view* for middle grades.

Fletcher, Ralph, *Flying Solo*, (1998). New York: Clarion Books. Mr. Fab is absent, but does anyone other than his 6th grade class know it? They know the daily routine, and they are sure they can follow it without adult supervision. Can they? Students' journals are featured in the novel. (Chapter book)

Fletcher, Ralph, *A Writer's Notebook: Unlocking the Writer within You*. Writers benefit from jotting down ideas. They never know when their observations will come in handy. This book offers guidance to young writers as they emulate the habits of published writers. (Non-fiction)

Hesse, Karen, *Come On, Rain*, (1999). il. by Jon Muth, Scholastic Press. A perfect blend of words and pictures, this book reads like poetry. Hesse uses lyrical verbs and adjectives to describe a hot, summer day and the relief brought by the rain. Similes and metaphors abound, and the reader just wants to sing along. (Picture book)

Krull, Kathleen, *Lives of the Writers*, il. by Kathryn Hewitt (1994). San Diego: Harcourt Brace. Subtitled, *Comedies, Tragedies (and What the Neighbors Thought)*, this book briefly presents the lives of 20 writers of note including Frances Hodgson Burnett, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickenson, Zora Neale Hurston, the Brontë Sisters, Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain, and Langston Hughes. Since a number of high ability students enjoy and appreciate literature and writing, this book may prove instructive and inspirational to them. (Will be back in print in September 2011.)

Linch, Tanya, *My Duck*, (2000). London: Bloomsbury Publishing. It all starts out so well: the teacher assigns a story, and the child begins to write an imaginative encounter with a duck. She quickly encounters problems as her teacher sends her back to start over, in a more realistic vein. This humorous story celebrates a child's imagination and reminds teachers that writing is a creative process! (Picture book) Very limited availability.

Lowry, Lois, *Looking Back: A Book of Memories*, (1998). Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Noted author of award winning books for young adults, Lois Lowry allows her reader a unique look at her life through photographs and short reminiscences that often connect her life and her writing.

Nolan, Christopher, *Under the Eye of the Clock: The Life Story of Christopher Nolan* (1987). New York: St. Martin's Press. Christy Nolan, an Irish writer who was born spastic, renders a view of a gifted writer in character of an alter ego, Joseph Meehan. Unable to communicate orally, Joseph finds a powerfully rich language to write of his struggles to live a life like others. His remarkable family supports him as he fights to attend school, be with friends, and create, through his writing, a picture of his own brilliance and gift for language. (Secondary) Limited availability in print, but available for download to Kindle.

Paschen, Elise, (ed.), *Poetry Speaks to Children*. (2005). Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks. What could be better than hearing a poet read her or his own works? The CD contains 52 poems read by the poets themselves, and a book of 95 poems especially selected for children.