

MAGNIFICENT MENTOR TEXTS TO LIFT THE LEVEL AND INSPIRE NARRATIVE WRITING

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Inspired By Grace Cho

3 MAIN CHARACTERISTICS TO LOOK FOR WHEN SELECTING MENTOR TEXTS:

1. STRUCTURE
2. ELABORATION & DEVELOPMENT
3. MEANING & SIGNIFICANCE/INTERNAL STORY

Salt Hands by Jane Aragon

- ❖ Structure, focused on time (one part of the night), small moment, theme of keep trying and patience, strong story arc

“Mr. Entwistle” Hey World, Here I Am! by Jean Little

- ❖ Elaboration, good storytelling example to encourage students to SLOW down and get to the action

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan

- ❖ p.14 great example of slowing down the action, action then senses/sensory details

Edward’s Eyes by Patricia MachLachlan (chapter book for 5th grade)

- ❖ Staying in point of view (p.7 Tells us what he sees -- exactly the way you see it but described with details)
- ❖ Internal story: What do you want your reader to know? Embed that within your story by using language like I dreamt of, I yearned for

Woman Hollering Creek “Eleven” by Sandra Cisneros

- ❖ Imbeds internal feeling, bit by bit storytelling, character development through small amounts of dialogue that reveal bits about the character

Come On, Rain by Karen Hesse

- ❖ Dialogue to describe characters, persistent - wants the rain over & over, not a lot of dialogue but makes her point, setting development

Hurricane by Jonathan London

- ❖ Filled with setting and objects in place

Fireflies by Julie Brinkloe

- ❖ Meaning & Significance - struggles with letting fireflies go or letting them live

Boy: *Tales Of Childhood* by Roald Dahl

- ❖ Character Description, Turning Point Moments, Great Stories to inspire kid writing

Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys' Favorite Authors Write about Being Boys by Jon Scieszka

- ❖ Great for idea generation and inspiration during collection, also good to depict change and turning point, it is in the Z bin at your school, excellent for motivating BOYS and girls of course

Thank You Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

- ❖ Beautiful example of memoir, internal story, and character change. Features a flash forward/reflection at the end.

My Rotten Red Headed Little Brother by Patricia Polacco

- ❖ Excellent for talking about the arc of the story as well as showing character change.

Ralph Tells A Story by Abigail Hanlon

- ❖ Great Writing Workshop kickoff text. It also serves as a mentor text for collecting ideas for personal narrative.

Pecan Pie Baby by Jacqueline Woodson

- ❖ Strong mentor for writing tight dialogue, staying within the story and writing from one perspective

When I Was Your Age: Original Stories About Growing Up, Vol. 1 by Amy Ehrlich, ed.

- ❖ Strong examples of turning point personal narratives. Not a picture book and hits some serious subjects. Good to help generate ideas during collecting. Can be used for almost any lesson.

Eleven and Papa Who Wakes Up Tired in the Dark by Sandra Cisneros

- ❖ Short stories that serve as examples of small moments and turning points. Eleven has strong examples of use of repetition and metaphor.