

Mentor Texts

Targeted Standards:

W.6.3 -- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

W.7.3 – Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

W.8.3 -- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Mentor texts or anchor texts are books that can be used as an example of good writing for students. Students can use the writing in these books to improve their own writing. Ralph Fletcher explains that mentor texts are, "...any texts that you can learn from, and every writer, no matter how skilled you are or how beginning you are, encounters and reads something that can lift and inform and infuse their own writing. (Fletcher, 1993)

Procedure:

1. Teachers purposefully select and intentionally read aloud from mentor texts to guide students as they work to apply similar writing techniques.
2. Sometimes only a small section of text is needed to model the strategy.
3. Standard #3 attacks a number of different topics that mentor texts may be used to address.
 - Engaging the reader by establishing a context and a point of view
 - Introducing a narrator and/or characters;
 - Organizing an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
 - Using narrative techniques
 - Using transition words, phrases and clauses
 - Using precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language
 - Providing a conclusion

Attachment/Resources:

http://writingfix.com/about_us/books.htm

The website above offers suggested mentor texts and lessons that teachers can select to model specific techniques.

Reference/Research:

Fletcher, R. J. (1993). *What a writer needs*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.