

## **Bibliography of Children’s Literature for Advanced Practical Writing**

### **Using Literature to Support Your Writing Program**

Writers of all ages are inspired by the work of other writers. An important component of any classroom writing program is the sharing of examples of writing by professional authors. You may wish to read these examples to the students and discuss them within the context of the genre being studied, or you may offer them as independent reading selections. While some students are reading independently, you can conference with others who need help during the editing and proofreading process.

Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. Based on a series of letters written by a young boy to a favorite author, this story is an excellent example of the growth of a letter-writer’s skills from grade two to grade six. This book can be read aloud to younger writers or read independently by the intermediate or advanced writer.

Dragisic, Patricia. *How to Write a Letter*. This is a good guide to letter writing for older students. Many examples of personal and business letters are given. Emphasis is placed on grammar and word usage.

James, Elizabeth, and Carol Barkin. *Sincerely Yours: How to Write Great Letters*. This wonderful reference book will help the writer write more effective personal letters and business letters. Topics covered include friendly letters, thank-you notes, apologies, letters of condolence, congratulations, invitations and replies, complaints, fan letters, requests, ideas for improvements, opinions, and letters for publication.

Sis, Peter. *Tibet: Through the Red Box*. This book touches on letter writing, personal narrative, and descriptive writing. It’s filled with beautiful illustrations and should interest a writer of any level.

Taylor, Susie King. *The Diary of Susie King Taylor, Civil War Nurse*. This book is a well-written example of a diary. Composed of original source material, it should prove helpful for both intermediate and advanced practical writers.

Woodruff, Elvira. *Dear Napoleon, I Know You’re Dead, But . . .* When a teacher asks the class to write letters to famous people, Marty writes to famous dead people. The book is an excellent read for writers at the intermediate to advanced levels. Also by this author are *Dear Austin: Letters from the Underground Railroad* and *Dear Levi: Letters from the Overland Trail*.