

Bibliography of Children’s Literature for Beginning Descriptive 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 confer with others who need help during the editing and proofreading processes.

Hall, Donald. *Ox-Cart Man*. Students will enjoy reading this description of the seasons of the year and how they affect the lives of a self-sufficient family in colonial New England. The story can serve as an inspiration for young writers to describe what happens in their own lives during the different seasons of the year.

Maurer, Tracy. *The Senses*. This easy-to-read book covers the five senses and how humans use them. This information will help students understand the senses and how they can be used to write descriptive passages.

Provinsen, Alice and Martin. *The Year at Maple Hill Farm*. Use this book in combination with *Ox-Cart Man* to compare descriptions of colonial life on a farm with descriptions of life on a more modern farm.

Rylant, Cynthia. *When I Was Young in the Mountains*. The author reminisces about the pleasures of growing up in the Appalachian Mountains. It is a beautifully illustrated read-aloud book for a writer of any level.

Yolen, Jane. *Owl Moon*. This is a poetic account of the winter world a little girl and her father see when they go owling. This piece of descriptive writing is filled with text that produces vivid pictures in the reader’s mind and will provide inspiration for descriptive writers at all levels.