

Bibliography of Children’s Literature for Beginning Narrative 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.

Brown, Marc. *Arthur Writes a Story*. When Arthur’s teacher gives the class an assignment to write a story, Arthur thinks he has a great idea and quickly writes his story. After listening to suggestions from his sister and friends, he begins to make changes until his story is nothing like the original. This story will help students realize how important their peer editing suggestions are.

Burton, Virginia Lee. *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*. Mike and Mary Anne, his steam shovel, have been a working team for many years. Then newer types of shovels replace the old steam shovels, and Mike and Mary Anne are out of work. Mike finds one more job for Mary Anne, and it turns out to be the best job ever. This problem-centered story will inspire beginning-level narrative writers.

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Man Who Walked between the Towers*. This book relates the story of French aerialist Philippe Petit who walked on a cable stretched between the World Trade Center towers in 1974. This Caldecott Award-winning book uses vivid art and simple wording to portray this dramatic and true event.

McCully, Emily Arnold. *Mirette on the High Wire*. Pair this Caldecott Award-winning book with *The Man Who Walked between the Towers*. *Mirette on the High Wire* is fiction, but the daring of the high-wire walker is skillfully portrayed in words and art.

Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. Officer Buckle has a problem. He visits schools to give talks on safety, but he is so boring that the children never listen. After he starts taking his new police dog, Gloria, with him, the audiences love his talks. Young readers will enjoy discovering that Gloria is upstaging Officer Buckle without his knowledge. When Officer Buckle finds out that the children really want to see Gloria, not him, he vows never to speak at the schools again. All ends well when everyone realizes Officer Buckle and Gloria must work together as a team. Beginning-level writers will see many examples of the use of dialogue in this story.

Say, Allen. *Grandfather’s Journey*. The author relates a personal narrative about his family’s cross-cultural experience. This beautifully illustrated read-aloud book is appropriate for a writer of any level.

Steig, William. *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. Sylvester, a young donkey, finds a magic pebble that can grant wishes. When he unintentionally uses it to turn himself into a rock, he has a big problem. Beginning-level writers will enjoy and be inspired by this problem-centered story with personified animal characters. Other books by the same author include *Shrek!*, *Amos and Boris*, and *Doctor De Soto*.