

Using Mentor Texts

to Cultivate Strong Readers and Writers

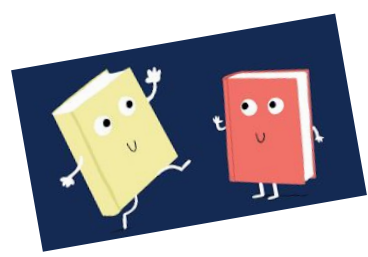
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Sheila Dunwoodie - Pedagogical Consultant - LBPSB
Nancy Saltarelli - Professional Resource - AMSFA

Think about your
own experience
with reading and
writing as a child.





What are mentor texts?

- Pieces of literature that serve as examples of good writing or of particular features of written work for readers.
- Texts are read for the purpose of studying the author's craft, or the way the author uses words and structures writing.
- Goal is to provide students models they could emulate in crafting their own writing pieces, or as examples of particular features of writing.

Why use mentor texts?

- Teachers can explicitly teach reading and writing strategies using purposefully chosen picture books and/or novels as examples.
- Supports the interconnectedness of reading and writing in the development of literacy for all students.
- Good writing is taught.

Why use mentor texts in my class?

- Provides all students the opportunity to engage with rich, meaningful literature.
- Accessible to all students.
- Books provide examples for students to learn from and be inspired by!

What WRITING can I teach using mentor texts?

Anything and Everything!

- Sentence structure
- Writing elements: voice, word choice, sequencing, setting, ...
- Genres: persuasive, autobiographical, narrative, descriptive, ...
- Figurative language
- Elements you notice in your students' writing which need work



Great Beginnings

Examples from Some Great Books!



Types of Beginnings

Foreshadowing

Simile

Question

Thoughtshot

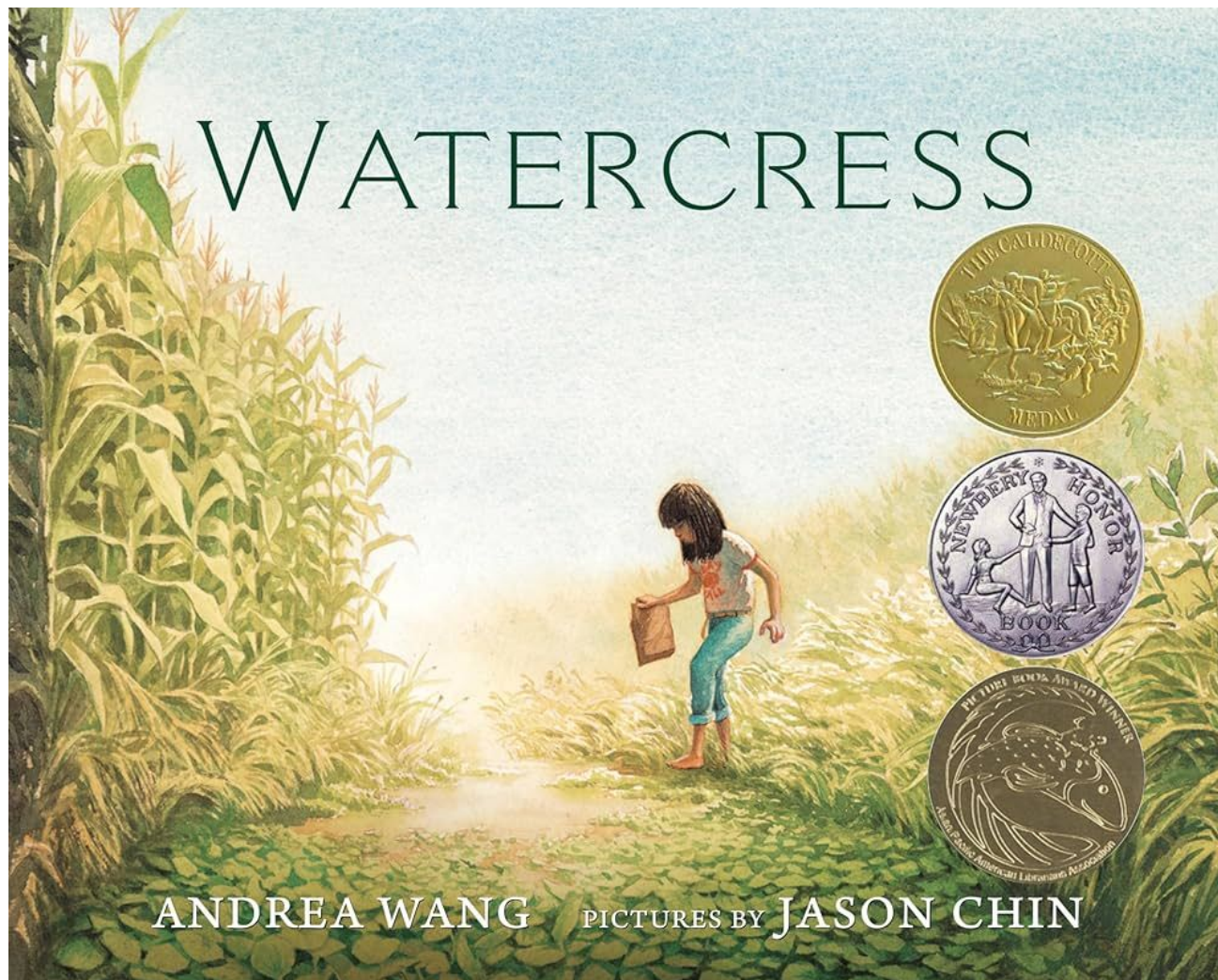
Controversial Statement

What READING can I teach using mentor texts?

Anything and Everything!

- All literary elements (vocabulary, character, setting, plot, theme, point of view, ...)
- Making meaningful connections (personal, to other texts, world view)
- Structures & features of various text types
- Comprehension skills (author's purpose, sequencing, inferring...)
- Elements you notice as your students read and discuss





READING LENS

- ★ PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
- ★ POINT OF VIEW
- ★ UNDERSTANDING CHARACTERS' FEELINGS
- ★ HOW SETTING AFFECTS STORY

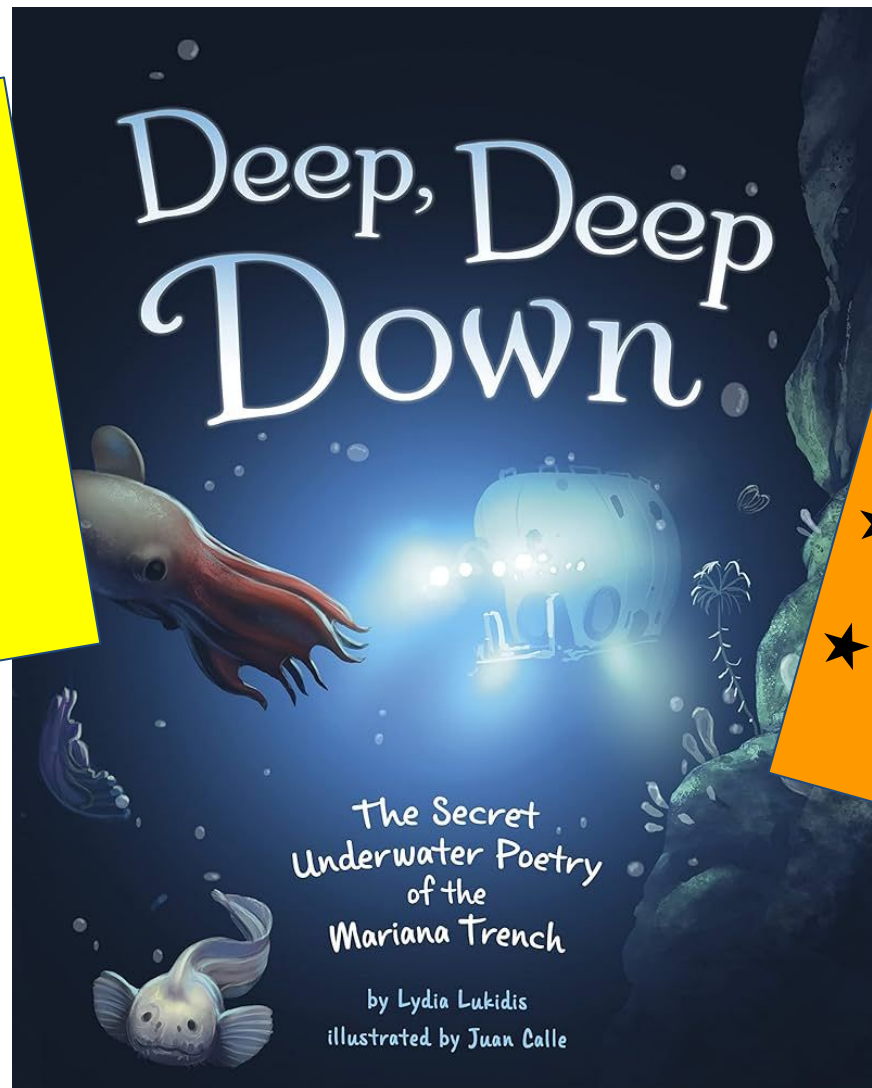


WRITING LENS

- ★ WRITING IN 1ST PERSON
- ★ WRITING PERSONAL NARRATIVES/ MEMOIRS
- ★ SENTENCE STRUCTURE
- ★ GOOD BEGINNINGS

READING LENS

- ★ AUTHOR'S CRAFT
- ★ VISUALIZING
- ★ NON FICTION
- ★ NARRATIVES
- ★ EXPLORING
- ★ VARIED TEXT
- ★ STRUCTURES



WRITING LENS

- ★ POETRY
- ★ WORD CHOICE
- ★ RHYTHM +
- ★ REPETITION
- ★ BLENDING FICTION
- ★ AND NON FICTION



Sheila Dunwoodie, Pedagogical Consultant, LBPSB

sdunwoodie@lbpearson.ca

Nancy Saltarelli, Professional Resource, A Montréal School for All

nancy.saltarelli@education.gouv.qc.ca