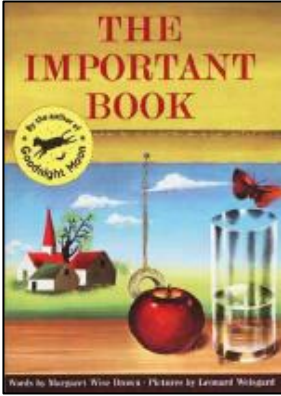
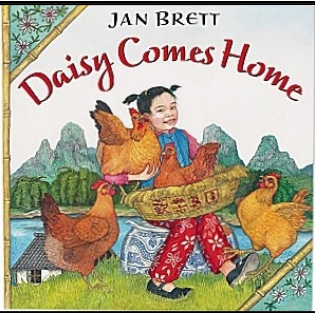


“Mentor Text” Classification

What is a *mentor text*? A *mentor text* is a published book (or song lyric or magazine article or...?) whose **big idea** or whose **written craft** can easily inspire a student to write about a similar idea or to write with the same craft technique used by the author. The best mentor texts can be brought out over and over again throughout a school year. When students know they are going to be write like an actual author, their buy-in increases.

| Idea Mentor Texts | Structure Mentor Texts | Craft Mentor Texts |
|---|---|---|
| <p>If you like a book’s idea and think students could create an original idea based on the one from the text, you are probably selecting an <i>idea mentor text</i>.</p> | <p>If a published book presents a structure that can be easily impersonated with students’ original ideas, you are choosing a <i>structure mentor text</i>.</p> | <p>If the author’s writing style or his/her techniques with words, phrases, or sentences can inspire your students to write similarly, you are selecting a <i>craft mentor text</i>.</p> |
| <p><u>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</u> by Judi and Ron Barrett</p>  <p>In this book, food falls from the sky for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, so students can write about their own day, writing about unique foods not used in the original story.</p> | <p><u>The Important Book</u> by Margaret Wise Brown</p>  <p>Students create original “Important Book passages” about topics they’ve learned about in social studies, using the structure shared by Margaret Wise Brown on every page of this mentor text.</p> | <p><u>All the Places to Love</u> by Patricia MacLachlan</p>  <p>Students study MacLachlan’s amazing use of prepositional phrases, then apply some of her techniques to a rough draft they have already created.</p> |
|  | <p>A thought: Most well-designed mentor text lessons borrow both ideas and structures from the books that inspire them. For example, in <u>Daisy Comes Home</u> by Jan Brett, a main character floats down a river past three animals, and the book very clearly gives equal amounts of details about each animal encounter as part of its structure, which is a structural example of good pacing. If you were to have students write about floating down a river past three different animals and to give equal details to each encounter, you are using this book as both an <i>idea</i> and <i>structure</i> mentor text.</p> | |