Books That Spark an Idea

BOOKS TO GET THE WORKSHOP STARTED

Arthur Writes a Story by Marc Brown  
- Writing my own story
Ahmed’s Secret by Florence Perry Heide and Judity Heide  
- What I want to learn this year
Night Driving by John Coy  
- What I did over the summer
Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester  
- An embarrassing time
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper  
- Something you did that you didn’t think you could do
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst  
- A bad day
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes  
- Don’t like your name (or other attribute)
Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes  
- Note writing
The Art Lesson by Tomi de Paola  
- Perseverance
The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting  
- Learning to read (transgenerational)
David Goes to School by David Shannon  
- Going to school
Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber  
- Going to a sleep-over
The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown  
- Running away from home.
Lon Po Po by Ed Young  
- “Home alone” or left somewhere
Olivia by Ian Falconer  
- Writing about yourself (attributes)
Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp by Mercer Mayer  
- Something you and/or a friend did.
Oliver Button is a Sissy by Tomi de Paola  
- Being teased or bullied

BOOKS THAT HAVE STRONG LEADS

*On My Honor* by Marion Dane Bauer
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
*My Dog Skip* by Willie Morris
*My Antonia* by Willa Cather
*Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
*The Giver* by Lois Lowry
*Fireflies* by Julie Brinkloe
*The Boys on the Tracks* by Mara Leveritt
*Three Days On a River in a Red Canoe* by Vera B. Williams
*The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant
*Grand Canyon* by Wendell Minor
*The Bat Poet* by Randall Jerrell
*The Widow’s Broom* by Chris Van Allsburg
*Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold

BOOKS THAT HELP WITH BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND ENDING

*The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka
*Heckety Peg* by Audrey Wood
*Lion Po Po* retold and illustrated by Ed Young
*Billy Beg and His Bull* retold by Ellin Greene
*The Bravest Ever Bear* by Allan Ahlberg and Paul Howard
  -Elaboration
*Pumpkin Heads* by Wendell Minor
  -Elaboration in the middle (expository text)
*Time Flies* by Eric Rohmann
  -Wordless
*The Gray Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher* by Molly Bang
  -Wordless
*Tuesday* by David Weisner
  -Almost wordless
*Good Dog, Carl* by Alexandra Day
  -All Carl the dog books are wordless
*The Mightiest Heart* by Lynn Cullen
*The Village of Round and Square Houses* by Ann Grifalconi
*There’s a Nightmare in My Closet* by Mercer Mayer
*Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* retold by Alvin Schwartz
*Scary Stories 3: More Tales to Chill Your Bones* retold by Alvin Schwartz
*Five Funny Frights* by Judith Stamps

*Be careful with these-censorship issues.

MEMORIES AND MEMOIRS

*Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak

-Mischief
- No, David by David Shannon
- Mischief
Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born by Jamie Lee Curtis
When I Was Little by Jamie Lee Curtis
Wilfred Gordon MacDonald Partridge by Mem Fox
-Memories
Koala Lou by Mem Fox
-A time you wanted something very badly
Possum Magic by Mem Fox
-Something you wanted and it turned out not what you expected
Silver Packages by Cynthia Rylant
-A special Christmas memory
A Christmas Memory by Truman Capote
When I Go Camping With Grandma by Marian Dane Bauer
-Grandparents
The Raft by Jim LaMarche
One April Morning by Nancy Lamb and the Children of Oklahoma City
-Dealing with difficult issues
Now One Foot, Now the Other by Tomie de Paola
Looking Back by Lois Lowry
-Author’s memoir
Firetalking by Patricia Polacco
-Author’s memoir
Up North at the Cabin by Martha Wilson Chall
The Bear That Heard Crying by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock and Helen Kinsey
-A family story
Zachary’s Ball by Matt Tavares
-A special time
The Days Before Now by Margaret Wise Brown adapted by Joan Blos
-Author’s memoir
Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco
-A time you were scared
Walking the Log by Bessie Nickens
-Something you like to do
Christmas in the Country by Cynthia Rylant
-Christmas memories

BOOKS THAT HELP WITH SETTING

Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
-Using the five senses to describe the fair
Heartland by Diane Siebert
-Exposition and poetry
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant
-Where they live and love
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Home: A Journey Through America edited and illustrated by Thomas Locker

-From My Antonia
Homeplace by Cresent Dragonwagon
-Imagination/setting
The Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow

BOOKS THAT LEND THEMSELVES TO EXPOSITORY WRITING

PERSUASIVE:
A Home for Spooky by Gloria Rand
-Abandoning animals and pets
‘Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving by Dav Pilkey
-Don’t eat turkey
The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
-Is there a Santa?
Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus retold by Cyndy Szekeres
-Is there a Santa?

DESCRIPTION:
Squirrels by Brian Wildsmith
Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert
Have You Seen Trees by JoAnne Oppenheim
Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert

LISTS:
Tommy at the Grocery Store by Bill Grossman
Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber

LETTERS/NOTES:
The Jolly Postman by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Dear Peter Rabbit by Alma Flora Ada
Yours Truly, Goldilocks by Leslie Tyron

DIARY ENTRIES:
Past and Present by Alison Adams
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse
Zlalta’s Diary by Zlata Filipovic’
A Gathering of Days by Joan Blos

RECIPES
The Seven Silly Eaters by Mary Ann Hoberman
Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper

POETRY
Hailstones and Halibut Bones by Mary O’Neil
The Aliens Have Landed by Kenn Nesbitt

NONFICTION NARRATIVE
Sarah Morton’s Day by Kate Waters
-Would you want to be a Pilgrim girl?

Samuel Eaton’s Day by Kate Waters  
    -Would you want to be a Pilgrim boy?  
Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor  
    -Collections