

# The Literacy Workshop: An Innovative Approach to Integrating Reading and Writing

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## What Is Literacy Workshop?

An integrated workshop where students independently or collaboratively apply the strategies, skills, habits, and behaviors of literacy learners while engaged in the reciprocal processes of reading and writing.

## When Might You Choose to Do Literacy Workshop?

Literacy Workshop occurs based on the following:

- Students' needs
- Curricular expectations and integrated learning standards
- Optimal opportunities to blend reading and writing processes

## How Will Literacy Workshop Help LEARNERS in Any Setting?

- Illuminates the synergy among book experiences, life experiences, and the written word.
- Focuses on integrated big ideas—big-picture learning.
- Equips students with future-ready habits of mind.

## How Will Literacy Workshop Help TEACHERS in Any Setting?

- Streamlines planning.
- Increases time for shared demonstrations and independent learning.

**Sources:** [Walther, M. P., & Biggs-Tucker, K. \(2020\). The Literacy Workshop: Where Reading and Writing Converge. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.](#)

[FREE! The Literacy Workshop: A Guide to Supporting Learners in Any Setting](#)

# Mentor Texts for Literacy Workshop (In Order of Appearance in Presentation)

## Fostering Independence and Engagement During Literacy Workshop

### Literacy Workshop Questioning Stances

- Writer/Illustrator’s Stance
- Literate Citizen’s Stance
- Reader’s Stance
- Researcher’s Stance
- Individual’s Stance
- Critic’s Stance

### Mentor Texts for Teaching Questioning Stances

Coppo, M. (2018). *Petra*. New York: Tundra/Penguin Random House.

*Petra* is a smooth, egg-shaped rock. As its circumstances change, the rock exhibits flexibility and a sense of optimism.

Holt, K. A. (2019). *I wonder*. (K. Pak, Illus.). New York: Random House.

*I Wonder* is tailor-made for launching conversations about the importance of asking questions. Brimming with queries exactly like the ones kids often ask, this book with spark inquiry and launch a discussion about where questions might lead.

### Mentor Texts for Inspiring Innovation

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| <i>Doll-E 1.0</i> (McCloskey, 2018)             | <i>Going Places</i> (Reynolds & Reynolds, 2014) | <i>Jabari Tries</i> (Cornwall, 2020)        | <i>Made by Maxine</i> (Spiro, 2018)        |
| <i>The Most Magnificent Thing</i> (Spire, 2014) | <i>A Plan for Pops</i> (Smith, 2019)            | <i>Rosie Revere, Engineer</i> (Beaty, 2013) | <i>What to Do with a Box</i> (Yolen, 2016) |

## Big Ideas for Teaching Integrated Literacy Strategies

### Mentor Texts for Schema (Ideas)

Johnson, J. (2020). *Help wanted: Must love books*. (C. Dawson, Illus.). North Mankato, MN: Capstone.

Shailey enjoys snuggling up her dad for a bedtime read aloud until he gets a new job and is too busy. So, she fires her dad and posts a help wanted sign. She is thrilled when her favorite traditional tale characters apply but after Snow White’s dwarfs accuse her of being the wicked queen and the gingerbread man runs away with the book, Shailey figures out she needs to add more criteria to her sign.

Each time a new applicant fails to meet her standards, she revises her sign until she realizes that only one person can fill the position. The back matter includes “resumes” for applicants like Pinocchio and The Frog Prince.

Marcero, D. (2020). *In a jar*. New York: Putnam.

Llewellyn and Evelyn collect everything imaginable. Throughout the seasons, they fill their jars with memorable moments and much more. When Evelyn tells Llewellyn she is moving away, his jar feels empty until the two collectors figure out a way to share memories across the miles.

## **Mentor Texts for Relationships (Connections)**

Springstubb, T. (2020). *Khalil and Mr. Hagerty and the backyard treasures*. (E. Taherian, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick.

Khalil lives in a noisy apartment above Mr. Hagerty’s quiet one. Both neighbors enjoy the backyard. As they share the space, Mr. Hagerty helps Khalil read words while Khalil helps Mr. Hagerty remember them. One summer morning, Mr. Hagerty notices his garden is droopy and Khalil is disappointed that he hasn’t found any treasure. That evening, they each secretly plant something for the other to find.

Ferry, B. (2020). *Swashby and the sea*. (J. Martinez-Neal, Illus.). Boston, MA: HMH.

Captain Swashby is enjoying his quiet seaside retirement until a young girl and her granny move in next door. Swashby scratches messages like “No Trespassing” and “Please Go Away” into the sand, but the waves fiddle with his words changing their meaning. With a little help from his lively new neighbor and his old friend the sea, Swashby discovers that life is more enjoyable when you’re in the company of others.

## **Big Ideas for Teaching the Elements of Nonfiction**

### **Mentor Texts for Nonfiction Topics**

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| <i>Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Animal Infographics</i> (Jenkins, 2016) | <i>Apex Predators: The World’s Deadliest Hunters Past and Present</i> (Jenkins, 2017) | <i>Now You Know What You Eat: Pictures and Answers for the Curious Mind</i> (Fisher, 2019) | <i>Pink is for Blobfish: Discovering the World’s Perfectly Pink Animals</i> (Keating, 2016) |
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### **Mentor Texts for Nonfiction Structures**

Salas, L. P. (2019). *Lion of the sky: Haiku for all seasons*. (M. López, Illus.). Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook. Readers guess their way through season-themed poems that Laura Purdie Salas calls “riddle-ku.” In the backmatter, the author provides a brief explanation of how she invented “riddle-ku” and offers an invitation to students to try writing their own.

Other Books with Nonfiction Riddles:

*Heads and Tails* (Canty, 2018)

*Heads and Tails: Insects* (Canty, 2018)

Salas, L. P. (2019). *Snowman-cold=puddle: Spring equations*. (M. Archer, Illus.). Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge.

In this unique, brainteasing book, readers discover the science and poetry behind the processes of nature that occur as winter turns to spring. Each page features a word equation and a brief, poetic scientific description that explains the equation.

### **Professional Resources**

Biggs-Tucker, K., & Tucker, B. (2015). *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards, 3-5*. Scholastic.

Fisher, D., & Frey, N. (2020). *The Distance Learning Playbook: Teaching for Engagement and Impact in Any Setting*. Corwin.

Walther, M. (2019). *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud: What to Say as You Turn the Page*. Corwin.

Walther, M. (2015). *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards, K-2*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. & Biggs-Tucker, K. (2020). *The Literacy Workshop: Where Reading and Writing Converge*. Stenhouse.