

LAURA PURDIE SALAS

WRITING THE WORLD FOR KIDS

MENTOR TEXTS

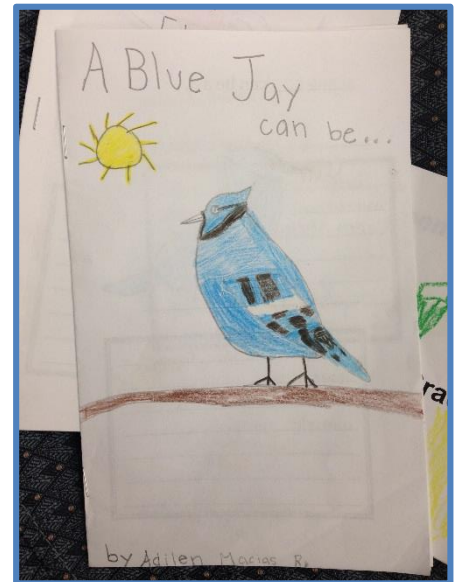
Laura's Can Be... nonfiction writing project for kids:

<http://laurasalas.com/writers-in-the-schools/can-be/>

This page has fairly specific directions, a video from a Can Be... project with schools, and downloadable templates for Can Be... book pages.

The Can Be... books can be used as mentor texts for:

- Looking at an object in different ways.
- Good and bad uses/results of something.
- Following one object through the seasons.
- Writing in short phrases.
- Repetition and refrains
- Kenning structure (carrot-muncher)
- Layers of text.



Books about using mentor texts:

The Writing Thief, by Ruth Culham

Nonfiction Mentor Texts, by Dorfman and Cappelli

I Can Write Like That, by Ehmann and Gayer

Sample nonfiction mentor text lessons:

Vivid Verbs from Kate Messner's *Over and Under the Snow*:

<http://www.marciatkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Over-and-Under-the-Snow-by-Kate-Messner.pdf>

This book is also frequently used as a mentor text for sensory details and descriptive language.

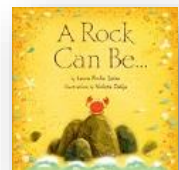
Organization/Sequencing from *Alphabet City*:

http://writingfix.com/6_Traits/Primary/Environmental_Alphabet.htm

Idea Development & Voice from *Diary of a Worm*:

http://writingfix.com/Picture_Book_Prompts/DiaryWorm3.htm

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Voice and Idea Development in Narrative NF from *Caves*:
http://writingfix.com/Picture_Book_Prompts/Caves3.htm

Descriptions and Word Choice from *She Sang Promise*:
<http://www.marcieatkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/She-Sang-Promise-Mentor-Text-Lesson-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

Specific Vocabulary from *Noah Webster & His Words*:
<http://www.marcieatkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Noah-Webster-Mentor-Text-Lesson-Plan.pdf>

Word Choice & Vivid Verbs from *Wisdom: The Midway Albatross*:
<http://www.marcieatkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/WISDOM-by-Darcy-Pattison-Vivid-Verbs.pdf>

Other resources:

<http://www.marcieatkins.com/2015/05/14/mentor-texts-in-the-classroom-fiction-and-nonfiction-tips-by-suzy-leopold/>

Jen Vincent's Teach Mentor Texts website. Use this list plus search box to find picture books recommended for certain traits:
<http://www.teachmentortexts.com/p/my-labels.html#axzz3wgsBgQtu>

Melissa Stewart's lists of picture books using specific text structures:
<http://www.melissa-stewart.com/pdf/NF%20Text%20Structures.pdf#zoom=70>

Loree Griffin Burns' Beetle Busters makes a great mentor text for science storytelling (for older students, generally).

Listing of some picture books that make good mentor texts for certain skills:
<http://www.mauryk12.org/literacy/writing%20mentor%20texts.htm>

Lots of sample lesson plans around certain skills:
http://writingfix.com/picture_book_prompts.htm

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