

Read Anything Good Lately?

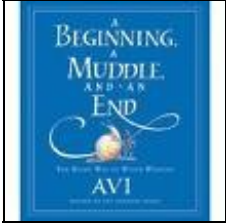
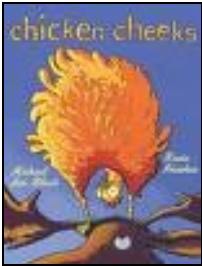
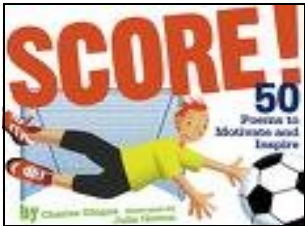




25 Picks

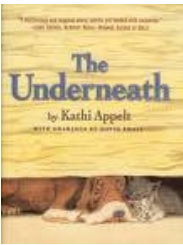
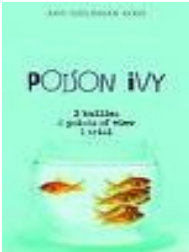
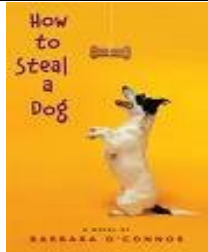
Picture books, Novels, and Nonfiction
For Grades 4-8 ish

Presented by Marty McCririck
NCTE Conference, October 23, 2009






Fun With Words to Prompt Writers

	<p>Avi. <u>A Beginning, A Muddle, and an End: The Right Way to Write Writing.</u> 2008.</p> <p>Avon the snail wants to be a writer but needs the help of his friend Edward the ant. He doesn't know where to start so Edward suggests, 'just write something'. So he writes 'something'. Lots of humour, filled with puns and metaphors. (Mature readers will appreciate the puns)</p>
	<p>Black, Michael Ian. <u>Chicken Cheeks.</u> 2008.</p> <p>This is a story with a beginning, a middle, and a whole lot of ends. Mostly ends! A lovely book to share for fun and a great introduction to synonyms.</p>
	<p>Ghigna, Charles. <u>Score! 50 Poems to Motivate and Inspire.</u> 2008.</p> <p>An energizing collection of poems that encourages everyone to reach for their dreams and stay on the path to success. Great for goal setting and lessons on how to infer.</p>
	<p>Reynolds, Aaron. <u>Joey Fly Private Eye in Creepy Crawly crime.</u> 2009.</p> <p>The strength in this graphic novel are the humorous metaphors and puns. Detective Joey Fly and his clumsy scorpion assistant are hired by ditsy Delilah butterfly to solve a mystery. Good examples of figurative language and the writing trait voice.</p>
	<p>Sturm, James. <u>Adventures in Cartooning.</u> 2009. This book teaches you how to turn your doodles into comics. As the story unfolds, the magic elf, will interject information about comics and their text features. Great to use before reading graphic novels or when teaching students how to make their own comic strip. Also a good example of the writing trait voice, ideas, and organization.</p>

Noteworthy Novels for Read Aloud or Lit Circles

	<p>Appelt, Kathi. <u>The Underneath</u> 2008</p> <p>A powerful story of love, loss, longing, loneliness, survival, and fantasy. An abandoned cat and her kittens, befriend, Ranger, an abused dog, and hide with him 'underneath' the porch. Gar-face, the abusive owner, searches for the Alligator King who waits for the return of his friend, Grandmother Moaccasin, a bitter half human half serpent.</p>
	<p>Collins, Suzanne. <u>The Hunger Games</u> 2008</p> <p>A tense, engrossing survival novel that will keep readers on the edge of their seat. 14 contestants from different districts are chosen by lottery to play to their deaths, literally, in the Hunger Games. Set in the near U.S. future, the winning district will receive food and water to help them survive. Lots of symbolism and connections to global challenges.</p>
	<p>Cummings, Priscilla. <u>Red Kayak</u> 2004</p> <p>Brady Parks heroically rescues a little boy involved in a kayaking accident, but triumph turns to tragedy when the boy later dies and Brady realizes that his best friends sabotaged the boat as a spiteful prank. The novel features a strong setting and a thought-provoking moral dilemma as Brady debates whether to turn in his friends.</p>
	<p>Koss, Amy Goldman. <u>Poison Ivy</u> 2006.</p> <p>3 Bullies. 2 Points of View. 1 Trial. When three popular girls go on trial in Government class for their ruthless bullying of a girl named Ivy, it seems like the misfit will finally get her revenge. A powerful story about bullying which also teaches how the courts work. Great for social justice connections.</p>
	<p>O'Cooner, Barbara. <u>How to Steal a Dog</u> 2007</p> <p>Georgina and her family have been living in their car since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment. Mama is working two jobs to earn rent money and trying hard to hold things together. Desperate to help out, Georgina decides to steal a dog for the reward money. Powerful look at homelessness.</p>

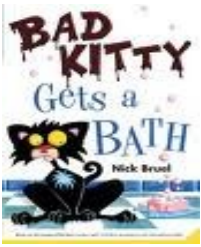



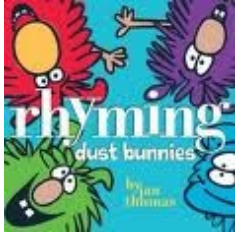
Picture Book Prompts

	<p>Kelly, Marty. <u>Twelve Terrible Things</u>. 2008.</p> <p>"I'm warning you. If you turn the page, you are going to see some terrible things." What follows are a dozen situations that range from unpleasant to downright awful, the stuff of nightmares for children everywhere. Great for making inferences and connections.</p>
	<p>MacDonald, Margaret. <u>Bat's Big Game</u>. 2008.</p> <p>Bat cannot decide whether he wants to be on the Animals' or the Birds' soccer team. At first he chooses the Animals, but when they start to fall behind, he switches to the Birds. When they start to lose, he tries to switch back. The Animals find his lack of loyalty distasteful and eject him from the game. Great for determining animal and bird characteristics, as well as being fair.</p>
	<p>Offill, Jenny, <u>17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore</u>. 2007.</p> <p>Meet a kid who is full of ideas. Great ideas. Brilliant ideas. It's just that grown-ups don't seem to understand her genius. For example: stapling her brother's hair. Great for making connections.</p>
	<p>Otashi, Kathryn. <u>One</u> 2008.</p> <p>Blue is a quiet colour. Red is a hot head. Red likes to pick on Blue. Yellow, Green, Purple, and Orange don't like what they see but what can they do? Things get out of hand until One comes along and shows the other colours to stand up and count. Great symbolism for bullying and the role of the bystander.</p>
	<p>Smith, Lane. <u>The Big Elephant in the Room</u> 2009,</p> <p>When is it OK to talk about 'the big elephant in the room'? Two friends hash it out with unexpected results. A humorous introduction to idioms.</p>

Nonfiction Lesson Launchers

	<p>Deedy, Carmen. <u>14 Cows for America</u>. 2009.</p> <p>A powerful tale in response to the 9/11 tragedy. Tears flow freely from American and Maasai alike as these legendary warriors offer their gift to a grieving people half a world away. Connections to global citizenship and cultural similarities and differences can be made. Also good for making inferences and predictions.</p>
	<p>Guiberson, Brenda Z. <u>Life in the Boreal Forest</u> 2009</p> <p>A stunning portrayal of the unique ecosystem of animals and plants in the great northern boreal forest. The destructive impact of humans from development and oil exploration is also mentioned. A terrific read aloud to introduce ecosystems and natural resources, habitats, and food chains! Great for the writing trait word choice as well.</p>
	<p>Hilliard, Richard. <u>Lucky 13: Survival in Space</u>. 2008.</p> <p>The famous line "Houston, we have a problem" comes alive in this picture book format story (with sidebar facts) of the plight of Apollo 13. One of the great survival stories of the space age. A gripping introduction to extreme environments or space exploration and technology.</p>
	<p>Pipe, Jim. <u>Unexplained: Encounters With Ghosts, Monsters and Aliens</u>. 2008.</p> <p>Close encounters, aliens, ghosts...fact or fiction? A high interest / low vocab book that will appeal to zombie, vampire and mystery fans. Great for questioning and supporting ideas with evidence.</p>
	<p>Yes Magazine Editors. <u>Robots: From Everyday to Out of This World</u>. 2008</p> <p>A fascinating look at robots. Designers are tinkering with robots that will make life easier and better. Future kids may have their own robot buddies to help do chores or just hang out with. Connections to how technology has changed over time and its use in exploration.</p>

More Fun

	<p>Bruel, Nick. <u>Bad Kitty Gets a Bath.</u> 2008.</p> <p>A hilarious 'how to' info novel filled with facts about bathing a cats, including the tools: shampoo and a suit of armour for humans. Lots of graphic aspects will appeal to the reluctant reader as well as the confident. Great for making connections.</p>
	<p>O'brian, Patrick. <u>You Are The First Kid On Mars.</u> 2009.</p> <p>Another interesting way to introduce extreme environments and space exploration. It also provides a different model for report writing. This is a combination of future predictions based on what we know to be true so far about the planet mars.</p>
	<p>Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. <u>Duck! Rabbit!</u> 2009</p> <p>Have fun with this great picture book that illustrates beautifully "point of view". This can be a starting point for discussing how points of view can differ and still be right. Great for the writing trait voice. A must browse.</p>
	<p>Raab, Brigitte. <u>Where Does Pepper Come From? And Other Fun Facts.</u> 2005.</p> <p>A great book to introduce questioning. This is a humorous cross between a science book and a riddle book. Could also be used as a model for the writing trait organization.</p>
	<p>Thomas, Jan. <u>Rhyming Dust Bunnies.</u> 2009.</p> <p>A guaranteed laugh for all ages. Great for a fun poetry writing launch.</p>