

**Definition:** *A touchstone text is a piece of literature that is used by a writing community to study genre, craft, or some other aspect of writing across an extended period of time...*

## **What Makes a Book a Touchstone Text?**

- ☆ I (*the teacher*) have read it and loved it.
- ☆ I have found between the lines, on the pages, in the pictures, many things to teach.
- ☆ I love it enough to talk about it across a long period of time.
- ☆ We (*entire class*) can **all** have access to the text.
- ☆ It is a little more sophisticated than the writing of my best students.
- ☆ It is a book we have talked about thoroughly as readers first.
- ☆ It is written by a writer I trust.
- ☆ It is a good example of writing of a particular kind (genre).
- ☆ It is of the genre that we are studying.
- ☆ I have read it and loved it.
- ☆ It can be used as a model in conferring.

*Adapted from the work of  
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