

Types of Texts Used to Support Writing Workshop

Touchstone Texts

Touchstone Texts are texts that the teacher selects to use with students all year, across genres, in order to teach the qualities of good writing.

Genre Touchstones

Genre Touchstones are texts that the teacher chooses to use in a particular genre study to teach the features of that genre. The writing in the Genre Touchstones might be too complex for the students to emulate as writers, but are good examples of the genre and should be shared and discussed with students as readers.

Mentor Texts

Mentor Texts are books that a student chooses because s/he wants to imitate a particular structure or craft of that text in her/his writing. The writing in the Mentor Text may come from the stack of Genre Touchstones, should approximate what the students can attempt to write on their own, and should not be overly complex.

Mentor Author

A Mentor Author is an author whom the class or an individual student chooses to imitate e.g. writing habits, structure, and craft.