

# ELA Newsletter



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# “Quote This”

“Write the kind of story you would like to read. People will give you all sorts of advice about writing, but if you are not writing something you like, no one else will like it either.” – Meg Cabot

“If there’s a book that you want to read, but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.”  
– Toni Morrison



## Viewing Ourselves as Writers

By Jennie Redburn, Driscoll Literacy Coach

*How do you get kids to love reading? You read to them.  
How do you get kids to love writing? You write with them.*

I was thinking about this quote one afternoon when I asked my stir-crazy children what activity they wanted, and one of them said, “Write a book.” I leapt at the opportunity to create writing with my children, and wrestled up some construction paper and various other writing materials. Watching my children’s natural creativity come forth reminded me of how powerful these moments with our children can be.

When I want to build a community of writers in my classroom, I write along with them. I share the work of crafting, studying authors, revising, rewriting, and editing. When we invest in the work together it is more meaningful. I am striving to bring that same joy of writing home to my children. My goals are to look for stories around us by noticing and wondering about the world, to read with them and share my admiration for the writing craft we are witnessing, and to write with them often, a journal entry here, a story there, or maybe drawing and describing something we are passionate about. Ultimately, I want my children to feel empowered to write without fear or reservation, so that they can have their glorious ideas heard. How will you engage with your children on their writing adventure?

## What Some Popular Authors Think about Writing

For more author talks to use as inspiration, go to the “Lit Bit” below.



[Jacqueline Woodson](#)



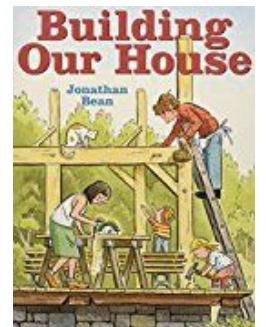
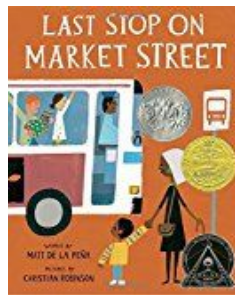
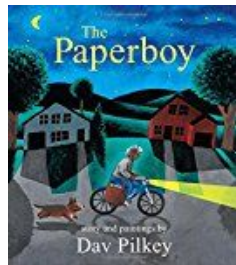
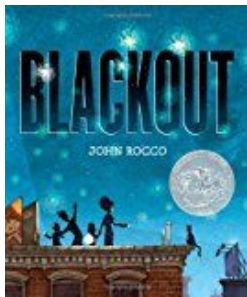
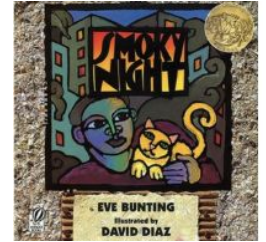
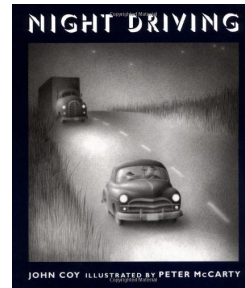
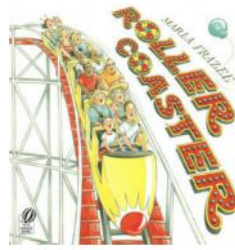
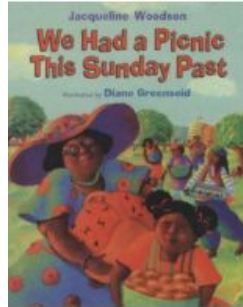
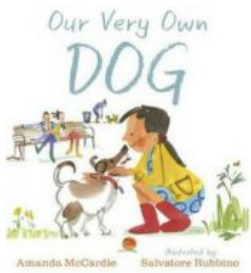
[Mo Willems](#)



[Gordon Korman](#)

# What's on the Bookshelf?!





If you are writing stories at home about personal experiences, here are some excellent mentor texts.



## Exciting New Books

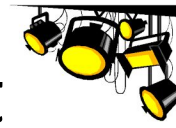
Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
<a href="#">Firefighters' Handbook</a>	<a href="#">Todos Iguales / All Equal: Un corrido de Lemon Grove / A Ballad of Lemon Grove</a>	<a href="#">Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks</a>
<a href="#">Small in the City</a>	<a href="#">Up Verses Down: Poems, Paintings, and Serious Nonsense</a>	<a href="#">Best Friends</a>
<a href="#">Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story</a>	<a href="#">Red Rover: Curiosity on Mars</a>	<a href="#">A Place to Belong</a>

Don't just take our word for it! Here are some other places you can go for book recommendations.

			
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# Student Spotlight



This winter the literacy department is showcasing some writers in grades 3-5. In the fall, Brookline students participated in a narrative writing unit. Here are a few pieces of writing.



“I chose to write this story because I felt like it helped me work harder after. I also like to play piano more because before it was a little easy. After I took this class I could work on harder pieces.” [Claire, grade 5](#)



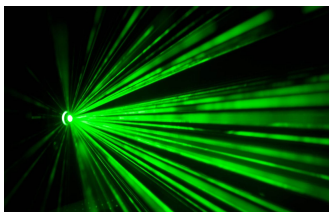
“I chose to do this story because it gave me a good lesson. The lesson was to hang out with new people and make new friends. You should try and meet new people so they can have one more friend and so will you.” [Bella, grade 5](#)



“I chose to tell this story because it was the most recent exciting thing that I could think of, and I wanted it to be recent so I could tell the story accurately.” [Matthew, grade 5](#)



“I chose to write about this because, as a tradition, we always go to the beach, but something we do every Saturday even when we are not at the beach, is get doughnuts.” [Hadley, grade 3](#)



“I chose to write this one because LaserTag is fun, so I thought it would make for an interesting fictional story.” [Lex, grade 4](#)



# The “Lit” Bit

Here are a few more resources we’d like to share with you.



In this NBC Learn special collection, children’s book authors share their writing experiences to help students learn more about the crafts and techniques of creative writing.

[Writers Speak to Kids](#)



**Tips for Encouraging your Writers**

[Writing Tips for Grade-Schoolers](#)

[How to Get Kids to Love Writing](#)



**Story Podcasts to Enjoy**



Thank you for reading the winter edition of the Brookline ELA Department Newsletter. We welcome your ideas, feedback, and suggestions [here](#).