Mentor Texts for Writers

Marcie Flinchum Atkins
Who am I?

www.marcieatkins.com
Housekeeping

- All handouts are on www.marcieatkins.com
- Notes
- Printables
- Bibliographies
- Everything referenced here
- Write down your Q&As
We spend a lot of time writing
But we get frustrated when we can’t get it to go from our heads to the paper.
We have finite resources.
We’d all like to have our books on the shelves.
We can all learn from the masters.
Mentor Texts

A stellar text that can be used as a model for good writing.
Design your own personalized course.

Class 101
Choose your course based on your needs.

Character Driven PB

PB Biography

MG Magical Realism
Design the course focusing on: YOUR WEAKNESSES

Make two lists:

Strengths     Weaknesses
How do I figure out my strengths and weaknesses?
Look for books that are strong in your area of weakness.
Where do you find the books?
Design the course focusing on: YOUR INTERESTS
3 Piles of Books to Study
3 Piles

Books that you like but couldn't write

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed
Mo Willems
3 Piles

Books that are similar in style or books that you'd like to write like

- Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed
- Lovabye Dragon
Design the course focusing on: HOW you want to study
Digital or Analog
Study the mentors
Macro

* Genre
* Organization
* Tone
* Voice
* Setting
* Character
* Plot
* Point of View

Micro

* Word Choice
  * Specificity of Language
  * Vivid Verbs
  * Sensory Words
  * Imagery
  * Word Play
  * Descriptive Language
* Figurative Language
  * Simile/Metaphor
  * Onomatopoeia
  * Alliteration
* Sentence Variety
* Dialogue
* Leads
* Endings
Macro Level Studies
Structures
Plot

Plot Clock
Character Development

OLIVIA

PRINCESS in TRAINING
Micro Level Studies
Scene Level

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy
across the road, the strawberry door in the light-shuttered house opened, and a bird of a woman stepped out. I figured she had reached her eighties, sometime around the Civil...
Word Level

**Specificity**

**Onomatopoeia**

**Strong Verbs**

**Sensory Words**
Noah Webster Word Wall

From the text → RIGHT THERE

Nouns
Confidence  Scholar  "blue-backed speller"
Dictionary  newspaper  teaching
School books  magazine  lecturing
* lawyer  * judge  * singing
* college founder

Verbs
unite  * teacher

Adjectives
ecstatic  busy

Inferred → text + your brain

Nouns
reader  writer
husband  father
* journalist  travel

Verbs
farming

Adjectives
Outspoken  studious
persistent  poor
* patriotic  passionate

* Words from the back matter (timeline, author's note)
Word Level

Specificity

Onomatopoeia

Strong Verbs

Sensory Words
Test your knowledge
Apply it to your OWN writing.
Borrow a structure
Use a structure of the whole book you like and test drive it.

Example: M, T, W, Th, F
Use a technique to write a scene.

Example: Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy zooming in technique
Restructure your draft into something new.
Try a hands-on technique
Plot Clock

ACT 1
ORDINARY WORLD
INCITING EVENT
BINDING POINT
LOW POINT

ACT 2
TRIAL AND CHALLENGE FAILED #1
TRIAL AND CHALLENGE FAILED #2
TRIAL AND CHALLENGE WON #3

ACT 3
CHANGE
BUILD UP

ACT 4
CLIMAX
DENOUEMENT
### The scene

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<th>Event</th>
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### The story

Once upon a time, in a far-off land, there was a young princess named Lily. Lily was known for her beauty and kind heart. One day, while walking through the royal garden, she came across a small, forgotten garden path. Curious, she decided to explore further.

As she ventured deeper into the path, she stumbled upon a hidden cave. Inside, she found a magical book that could grant her wishes. Lily wished for wisdom and courage, and the book granted her request.

With newfound strength, Lily continued her journey and encountered many challenges. She faced dragons, solved puzzles, and learned valuable lessons along the way. Eventually, she reached a castle where the evil sorcerer was hoarding a powerful artifact.

Lily confronted the sorcerer, using her newfound knowledge and courage. After a fierce battle, the artifact was returned to its rightful place, and peace was restored to the land.

Lily returned to her kingdom, hailed as a hero. She realized that true strength lies not in magic, but in the courage to face challenges head-on and the wisdom to make the right choices.
Build on your STRENGTHS and strengthen your WEAKNESSES.
Create Your Own Toolbox
Make it your own
Send me Questions to marcie@marcieatkins.com by Sunday, January 19

I will do a follow up blog post with answers