

Tip #1

Laminate the Text

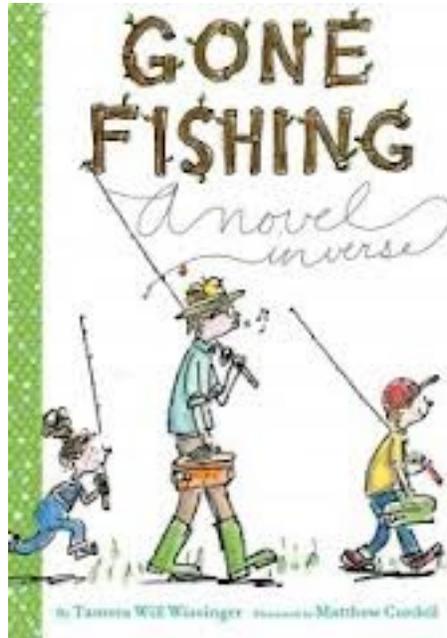
Materials Needed

- * Text to photocopy and laminate
- * Vis a Vis Markers
- * Squirt water bottle
- * Tissues or paper towels

Tips for Studying the Text

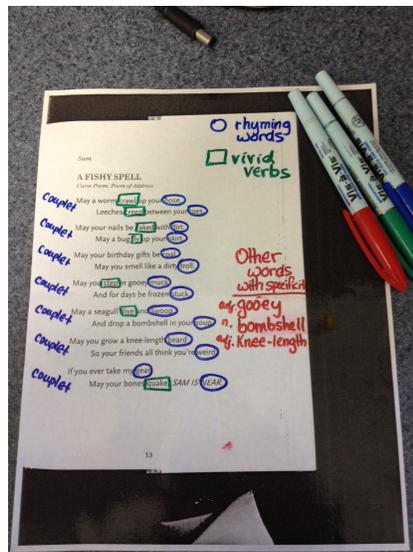
Just reading a text is often not enough for a young writer (or an old writer) to really learn from the text. Writing on it, or interacting with the text, can help the young writer really glean new writing skills. However, we don't want kids to write in the books because we want to use them from year to year, or because we borrowed them from the library.

Try photocopying the page or paragraph you want to use. Laminate it. Then provide overhead projector markers (Vis A Vis) for students to write with. Laminate pages can be wiped clean with a little bit of water and a paper towel.



GONE FISHING by Tamera Will Wisinger

In this example, I circled the rhyming words that formed couplets, boxed vivid verbs, and wrote other specific words in red. This was a sample at looking at word choice. I located all of them at once, but you might have students only look for one of these things at a time.



You could also photocopy and laminate a page out of a favorite chapter book or picture book.

If you use this as a station where students work on small groups or in pairs, make sure they know what they are looking for. Are they looking for word choice? Making notes as to how an author wrote a particular description? Underlining sensory words that give the reader a better experience?

Application to Writing

After they have studied a particular technique (and I would suggest focusing on one technique at a time in the beginning), have students try it out in their own writing.

For example, in the text above, students put a box around vivid verbs they found. Have them use a colored pen or marker to circle some boring words in their work in progress. Then have the students change them to more specific verbs in their writing. Focusing on one or two places will also help them from getting overwhelmed and having to rewrite an entire piece.

This particular example was taken from the book *GONE FISHING* by Tamera Will Wissinger. If you are interesting in teaching with this book, [you can check out my entire lesson plan, complete with pre-made poetry stations at my website.](#)