



Mentor Texts for Writers

Marcie Flinchum Atkins

Who am I?



www.marcielatkins.com

Housekeeping

- All handouts are on www.marciatkins.com
- Notes
- Printables
- Bibliographies
- Everything referenced here
- Write down your Q&As

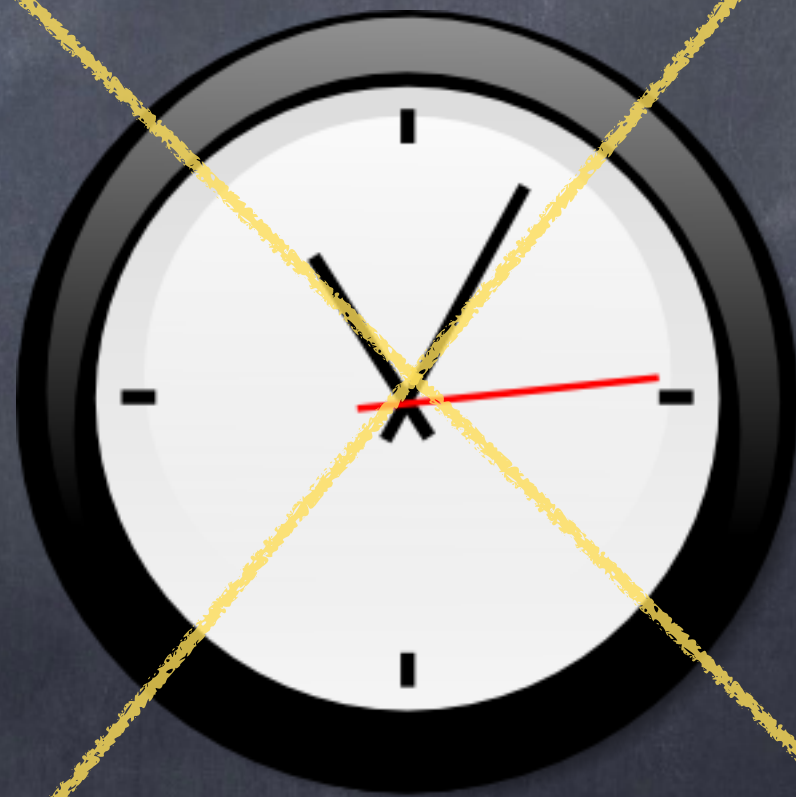
We spend a
lot of time
writing



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.



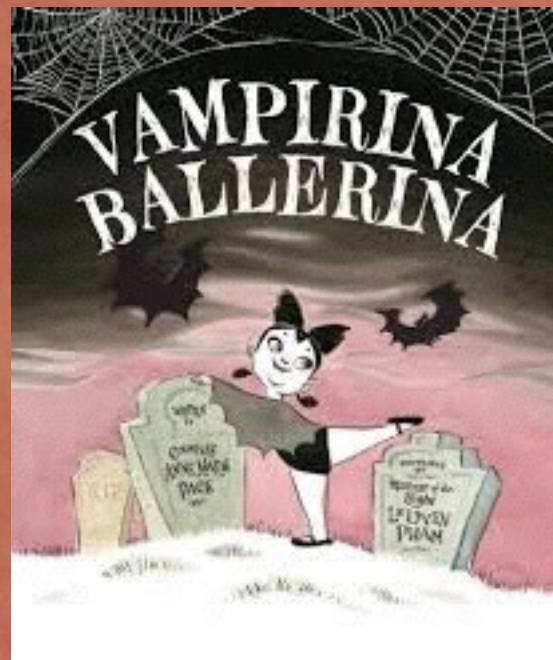
Mentor Texts

A stellar text that can be used as a model for good writing.

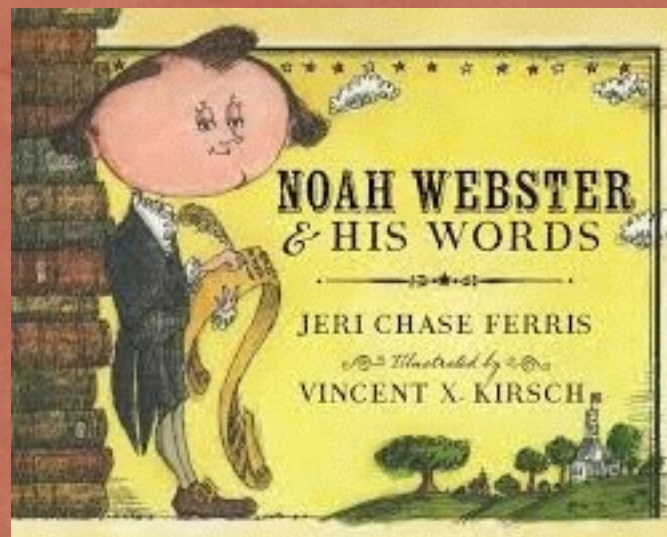
Design your own
personalized course.

Class
101

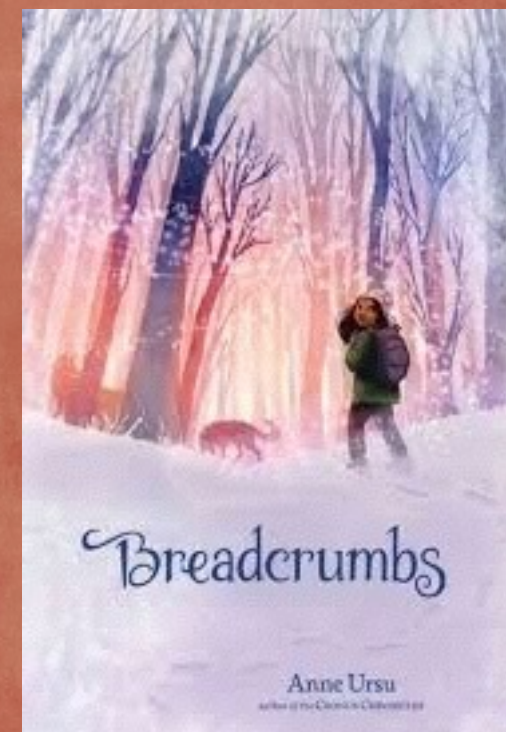
Choose your course
based on your needs.



Character PB
Driven
PB



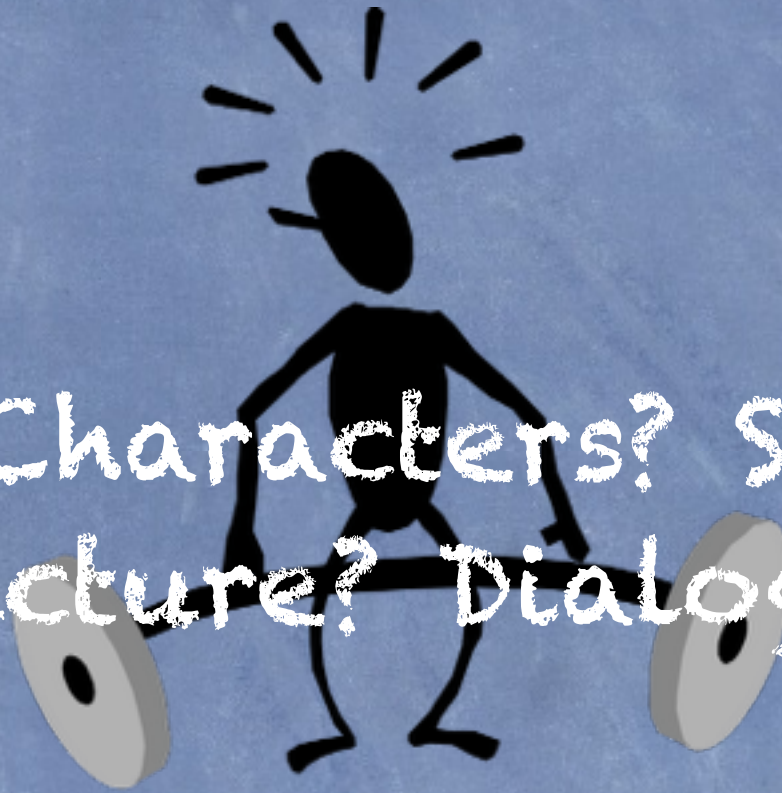
PB Biography



MG
Magical
Realism

Design the course focusing
on: YOUR WEAKNESSES

Plot? Characters? Setting?
Structure? Dialogue?



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?






Book by Barb Rosenstock

Want it Friday, Jan. 3? Order within **34 hrs 28 mins** and choose **One-Day Shipping** at checkout. [Details](#)



☐ Buy Used \$11.33

Add to Wish List

Have one to sell? [Sell on Amazon](#)

Share    

Frequently Bought Together

 +  Price for both: **\$25.48**


[Add both to Cart](#) [Add both to Wish List](#)

[Show availability and shipping details](#)


- ☒ This item: **Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library** by Barb Rosenstock Hardcover
- ☒ **The Camping Trip that Changed America** by Barb Rosenstock Hardcover

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought


Page 1 of 4




The Camping Trip that Changed America
Barb Rosenstock




The Thing About Luck
Cynthia Kadohata
★★★★★ (9)



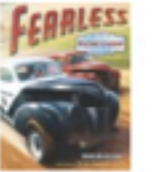
On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein
Jennifer Berne



Locomotive
Brian Floca
★★★★★ (14)



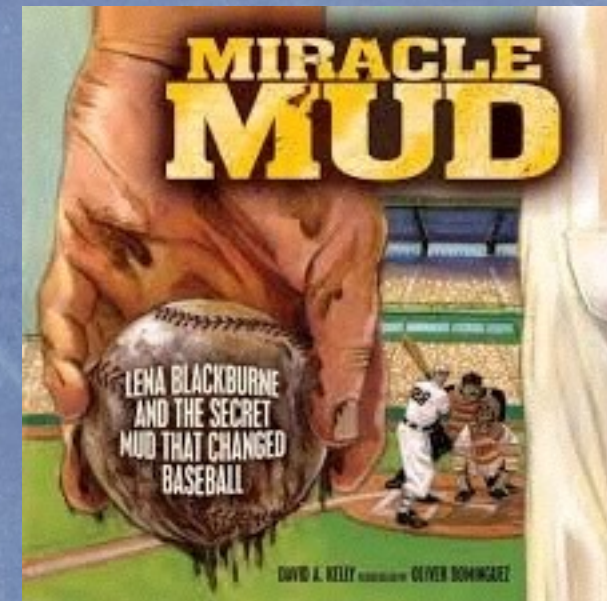
Little Red Writing
Joan Holub
★★★★★ (19)



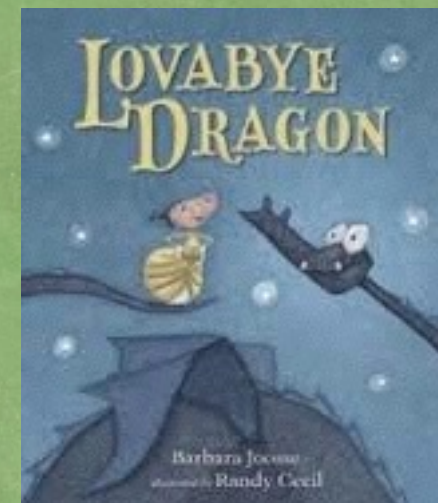
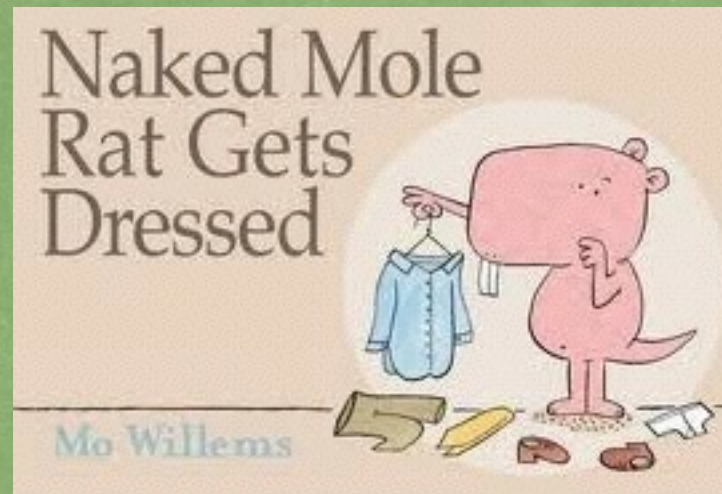
Fearless: The Story of Racing Legend Louise Serrano
Barb Rosenstock

Design the course focusing
on: YOUR INTERESTS

I

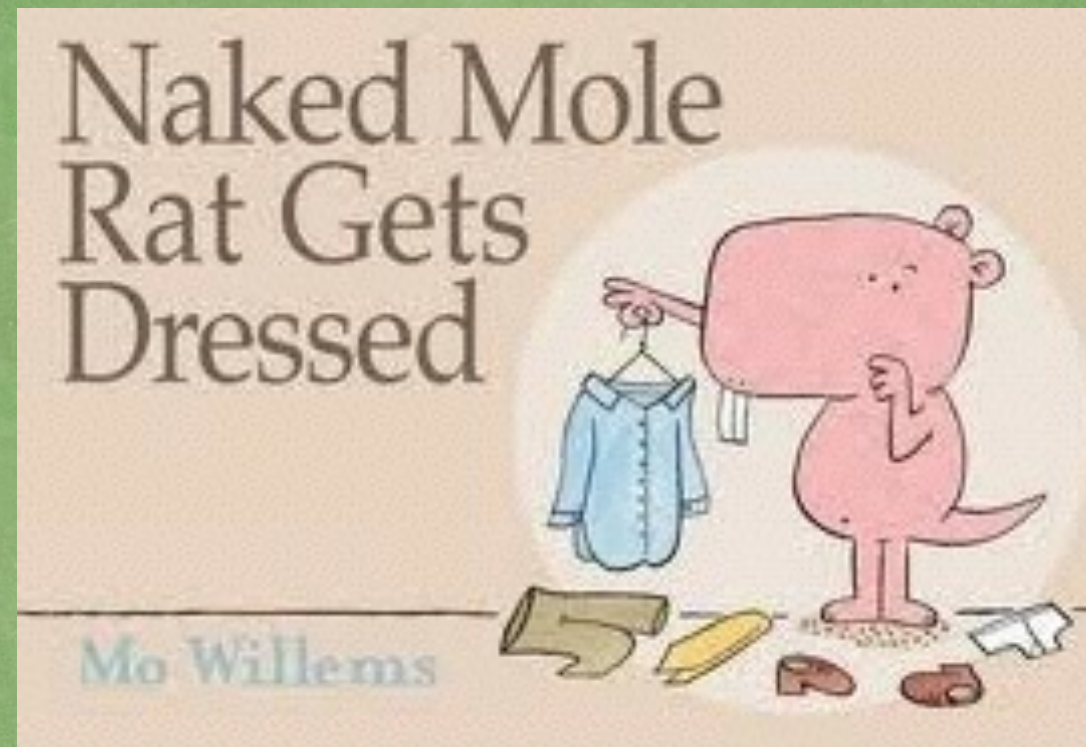


3 Piles of Books to Study



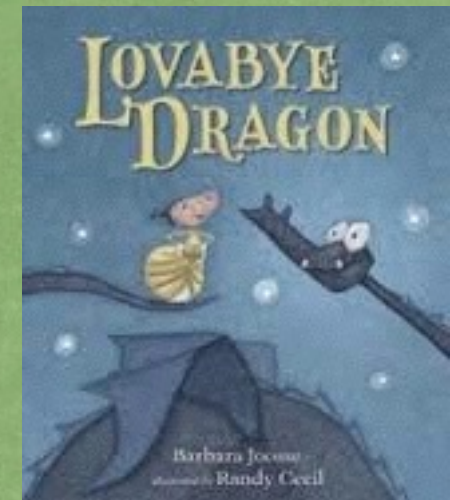
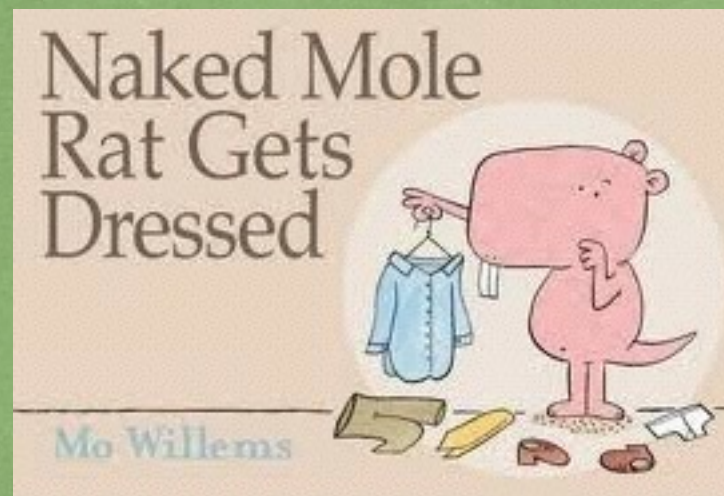
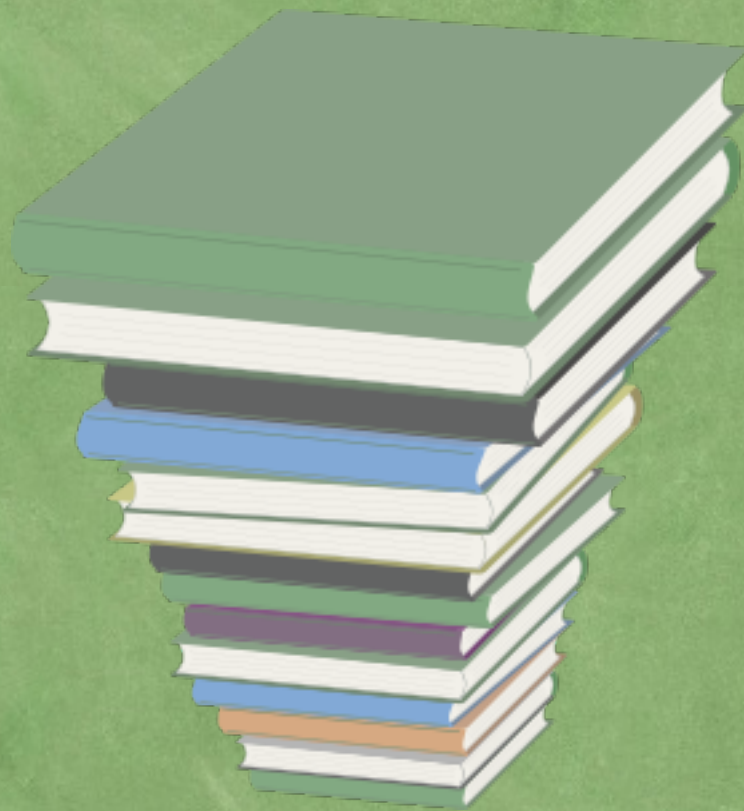
3 Piles

Books that you like but couldn't write

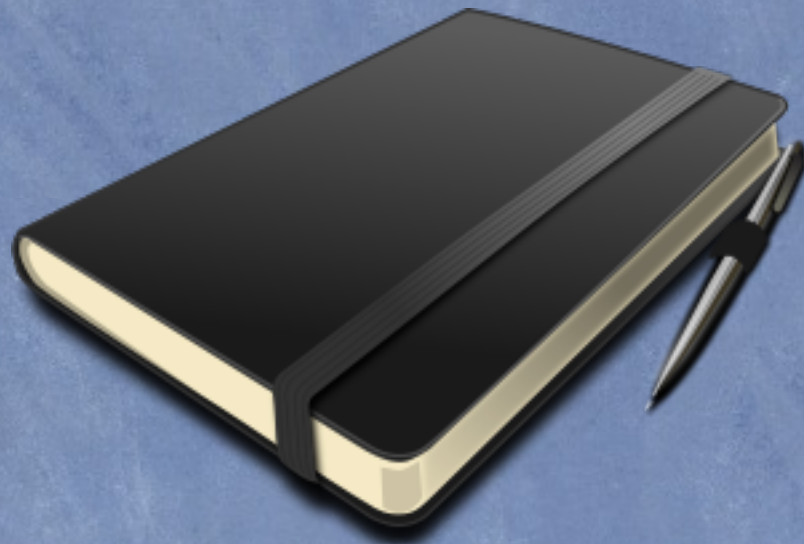


3 Piles

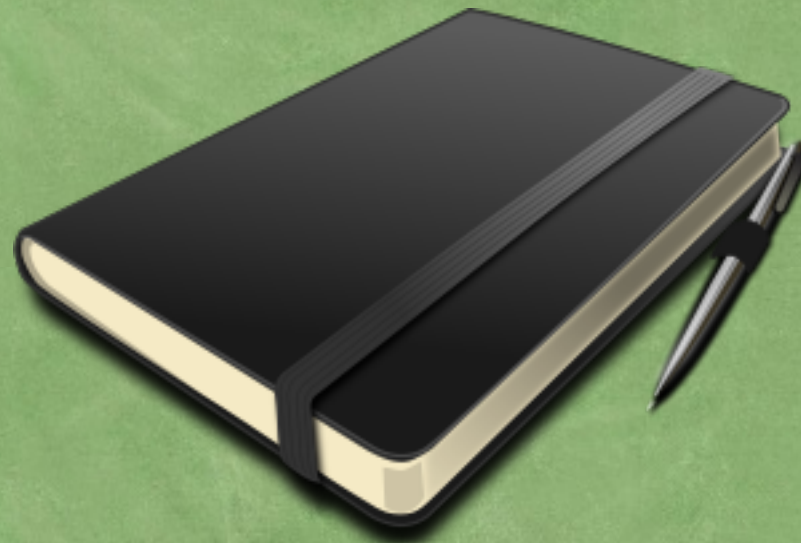
Books that are similar in style or
books that you'd like to write like



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

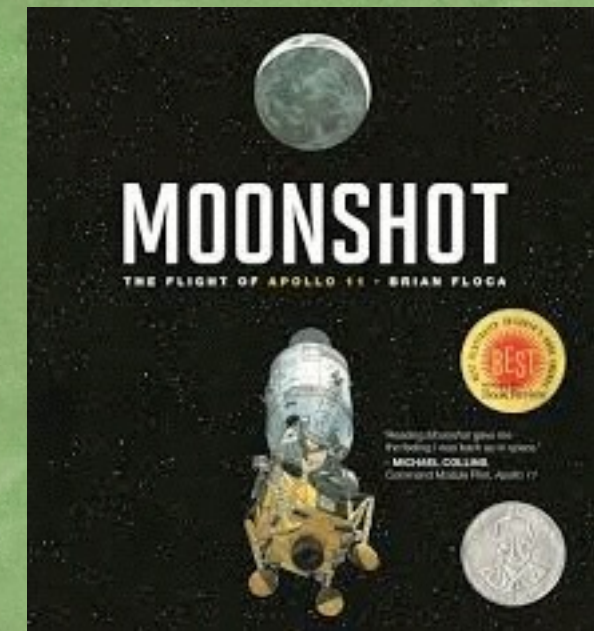
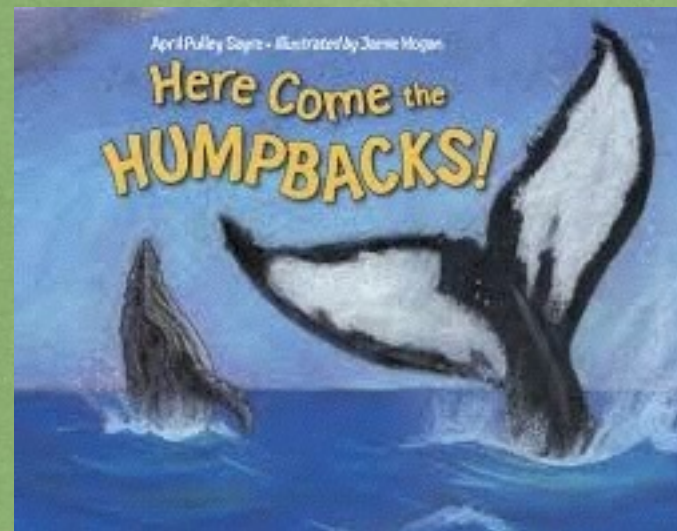
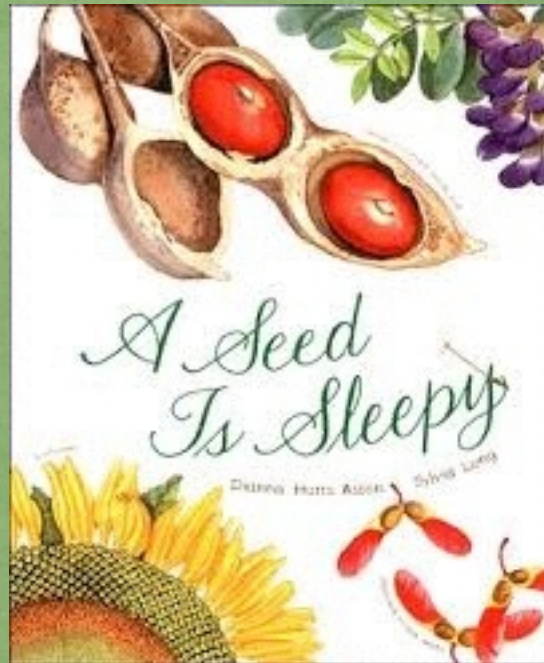
Micro

- * 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

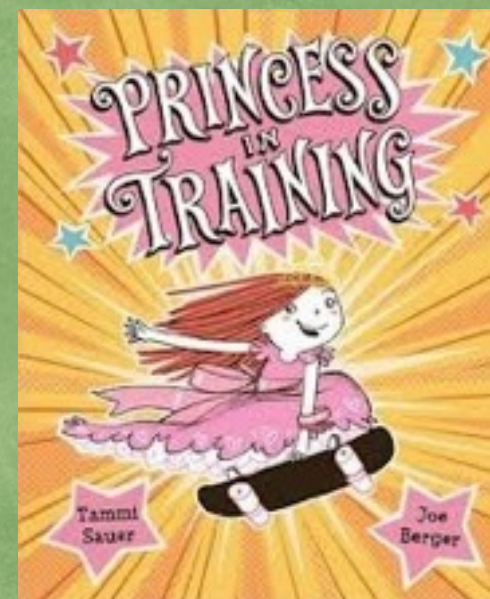
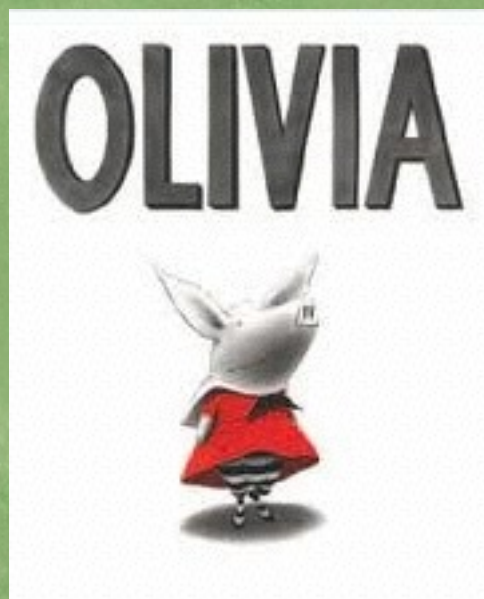


Plot

Plot Clock



Character Development

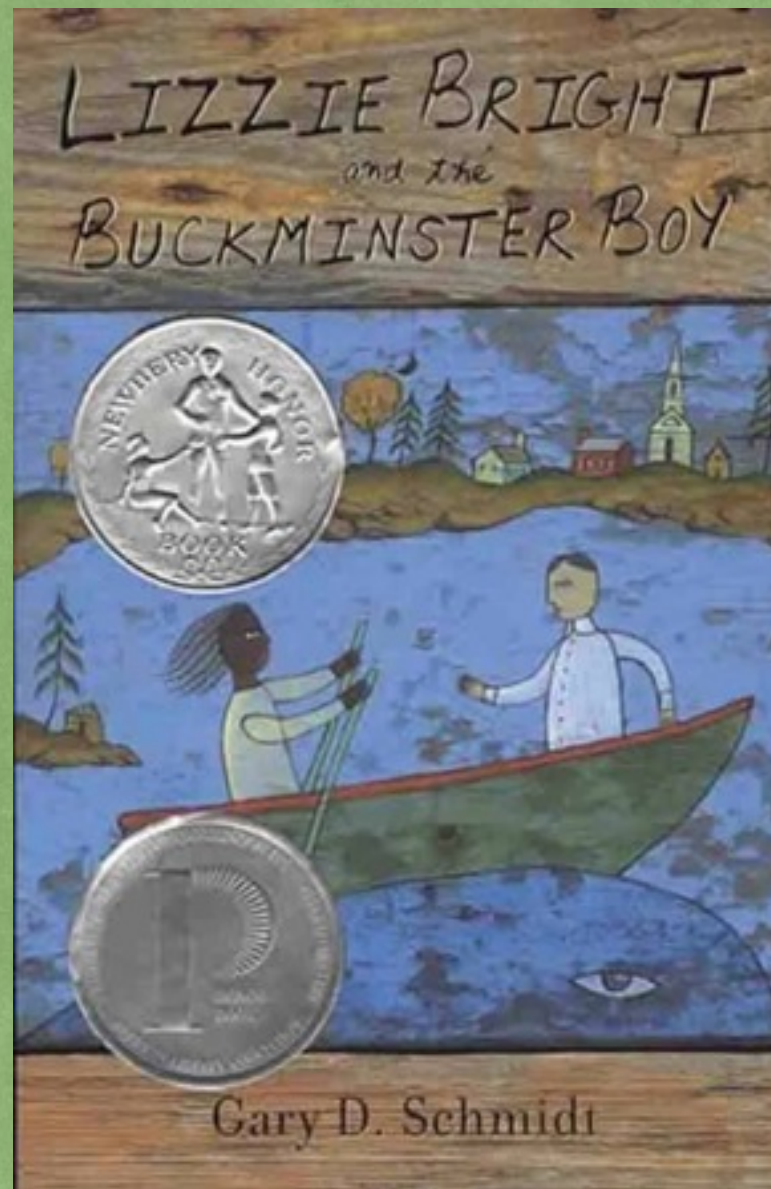


Micro Level Studies



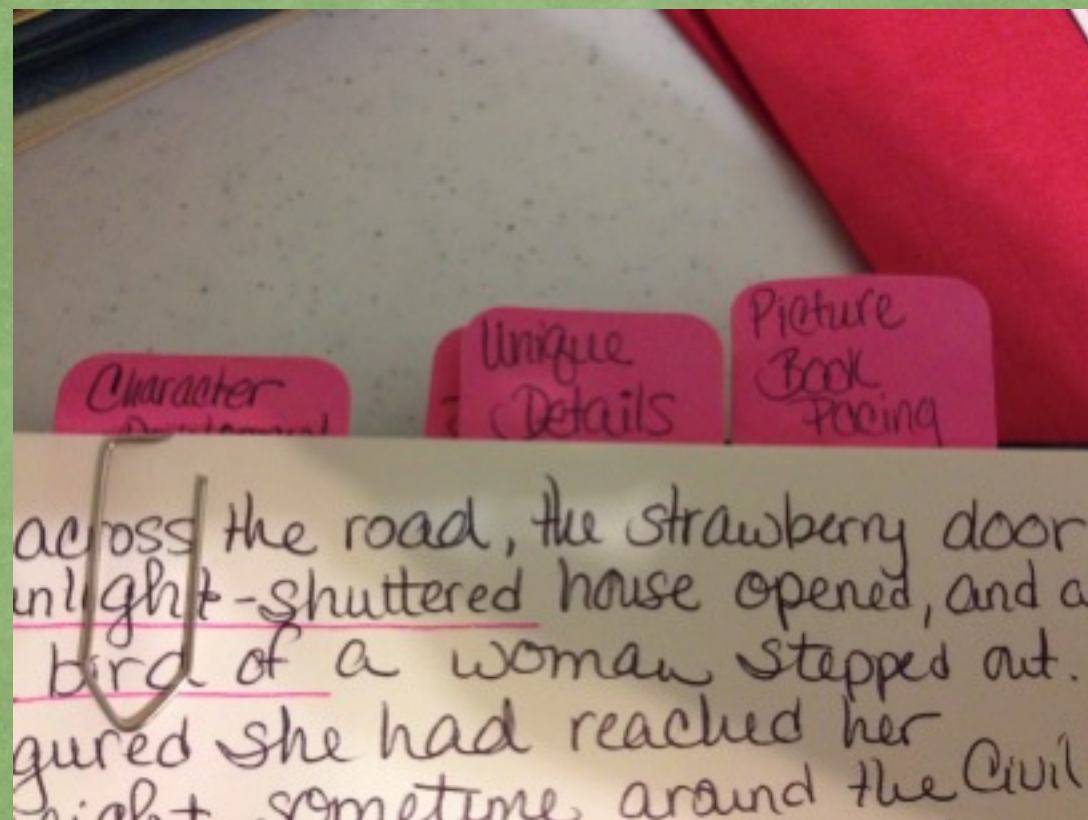
Scene Level

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy

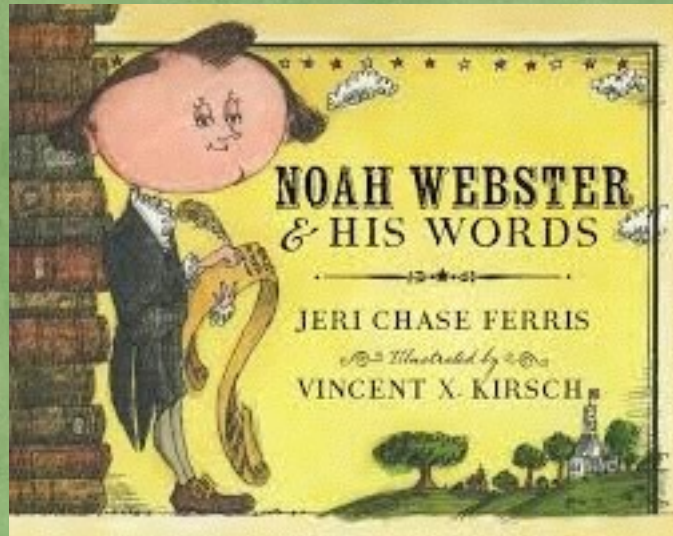


Sentence Level

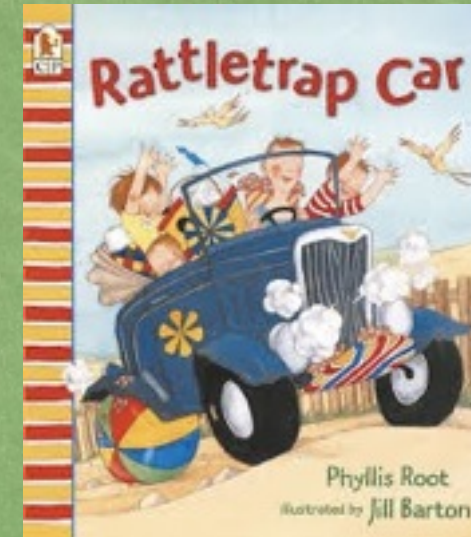
Titles, Beginning Sentences, Endings,
Refrains



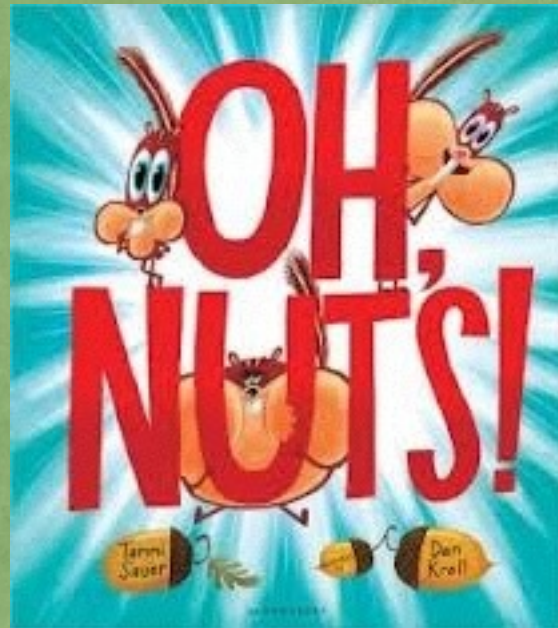
Word Level



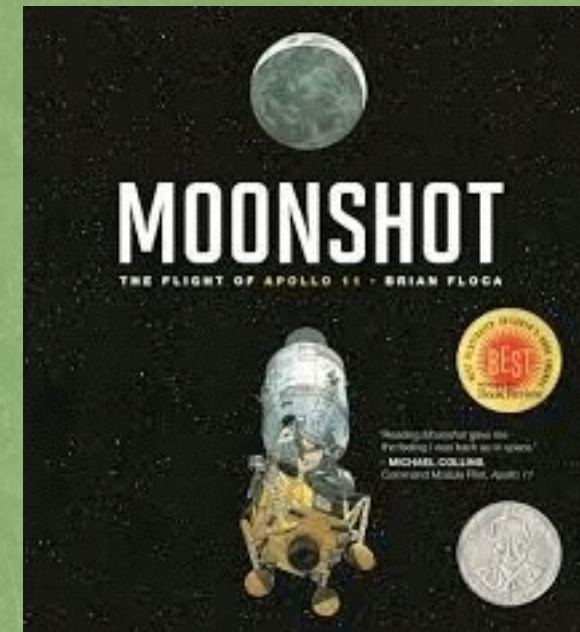
Specificity



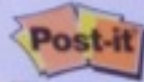
Onomatopoeia



Strong Verbs



Sensory Words



Easy Pad
Tableau à feuilles mobiles
Block de Feuilles Repositionnelles



Super Sticky
Super Adhesive
Super Adhésif

3M

Noah Webster Word Wall

From the text → RIGHT THERE

Nouns

Confidence
dictionary
School books
magazine
* lawyer
* college founder
Scholar
"blue-backed speller"
newspaper
* teacher
* judge

Verbs

teaching
lecturing
unite
* singing
* dancing

Adjectives

ecstatic
busy

Inferred → text + your brain

Nouns

reader
writer
husband
father
journalist
traveler
* politician
word-wizard

Verbs

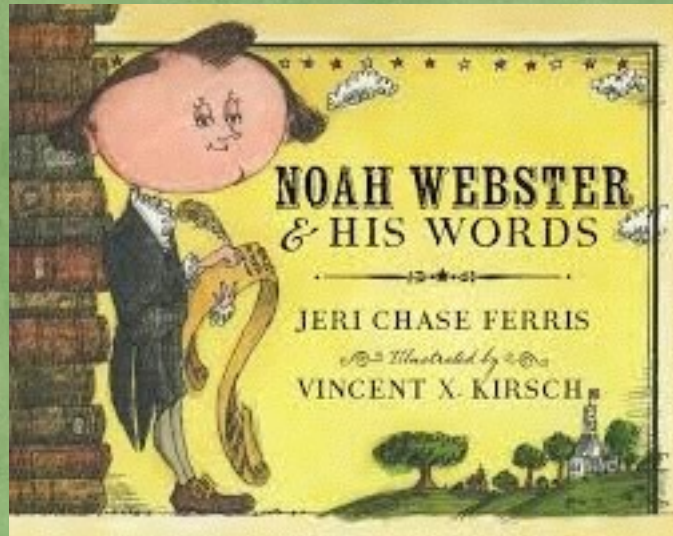
farming

Adjectives

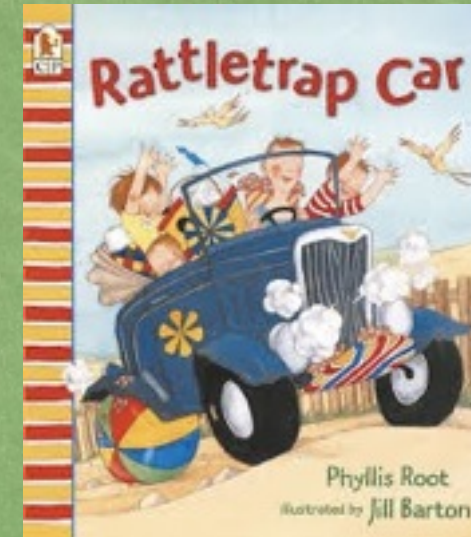
outspoken
persistent
patriotic
hard-working
studious
poor
passionate

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

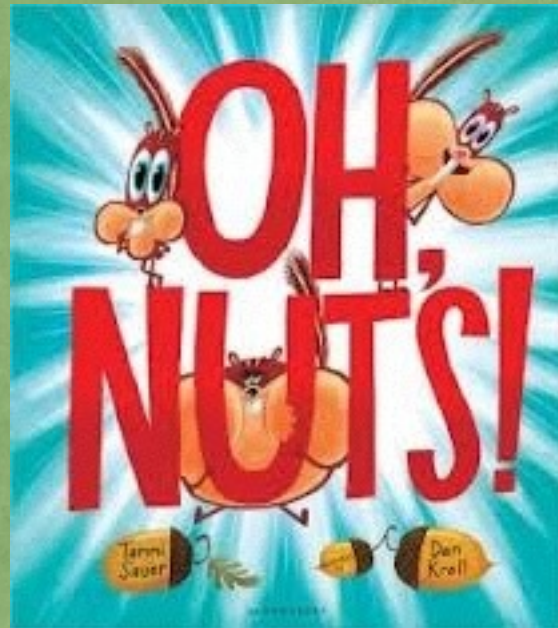
Word Level



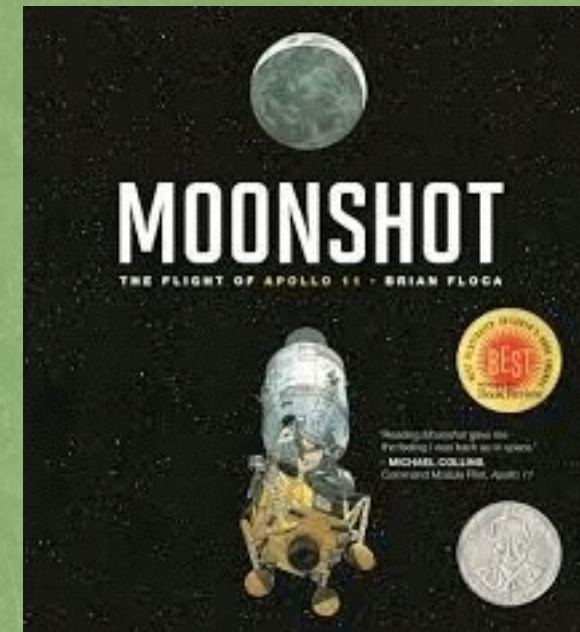
Specificity



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

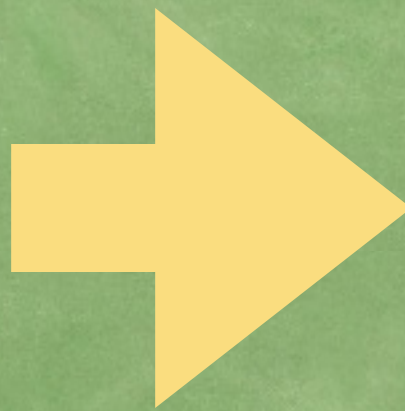


Use a technique to
write a scene.

Example: Lizzie Bright and the
Buckminster Boy zooming in technique



Restructure your draft
into something new.

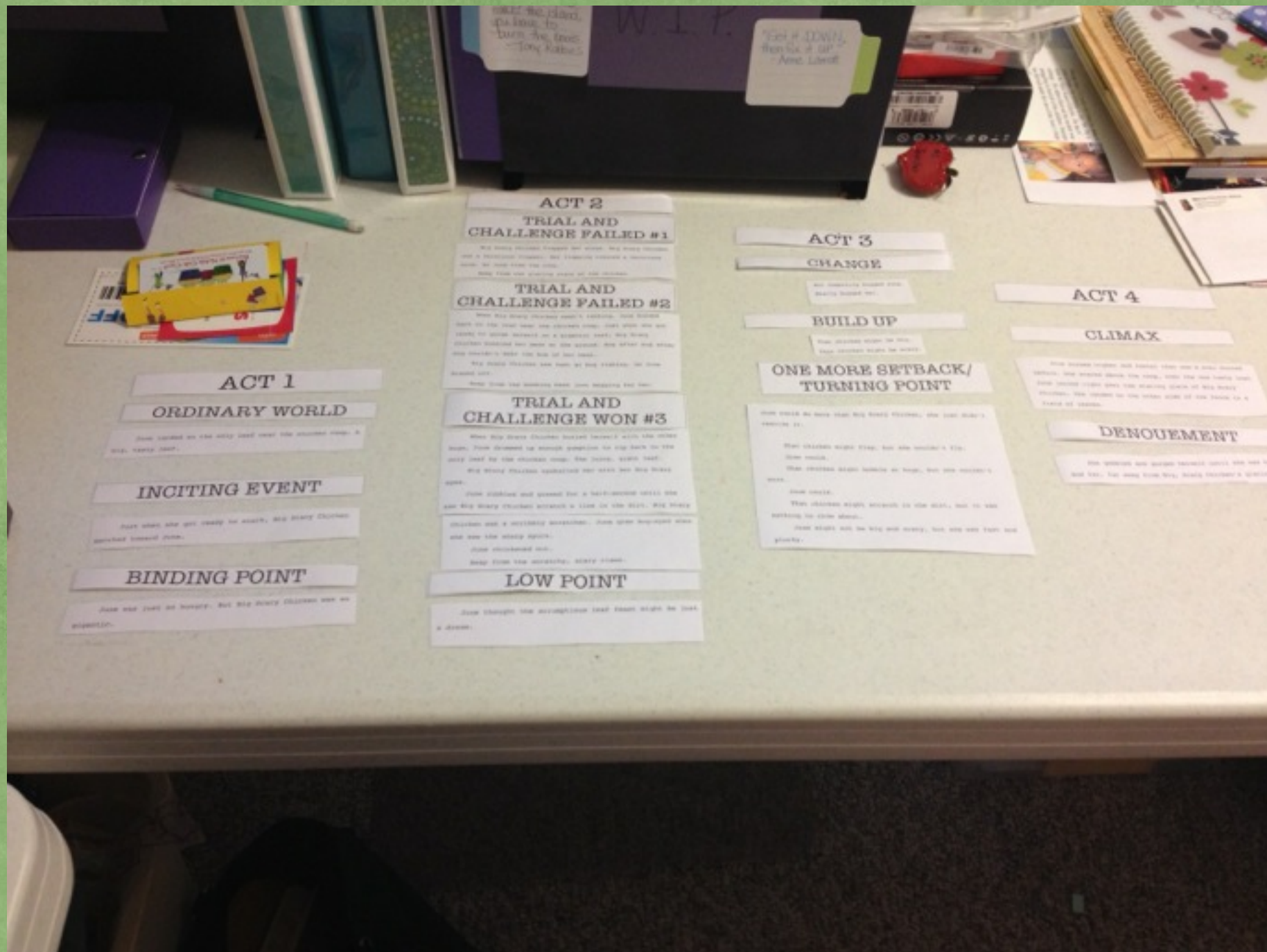


REWRITE

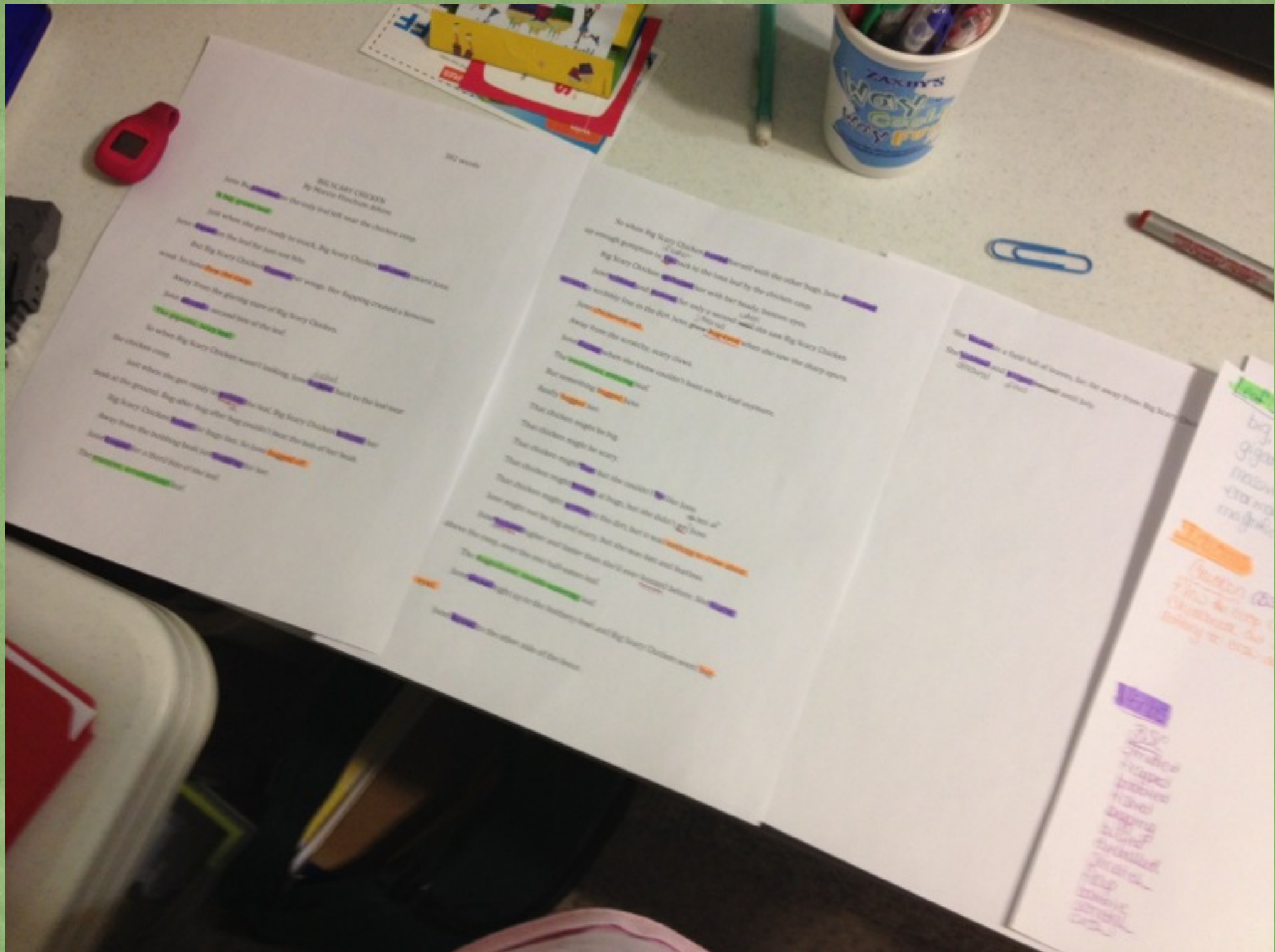
Try a hands-on
technique



Plot Clock



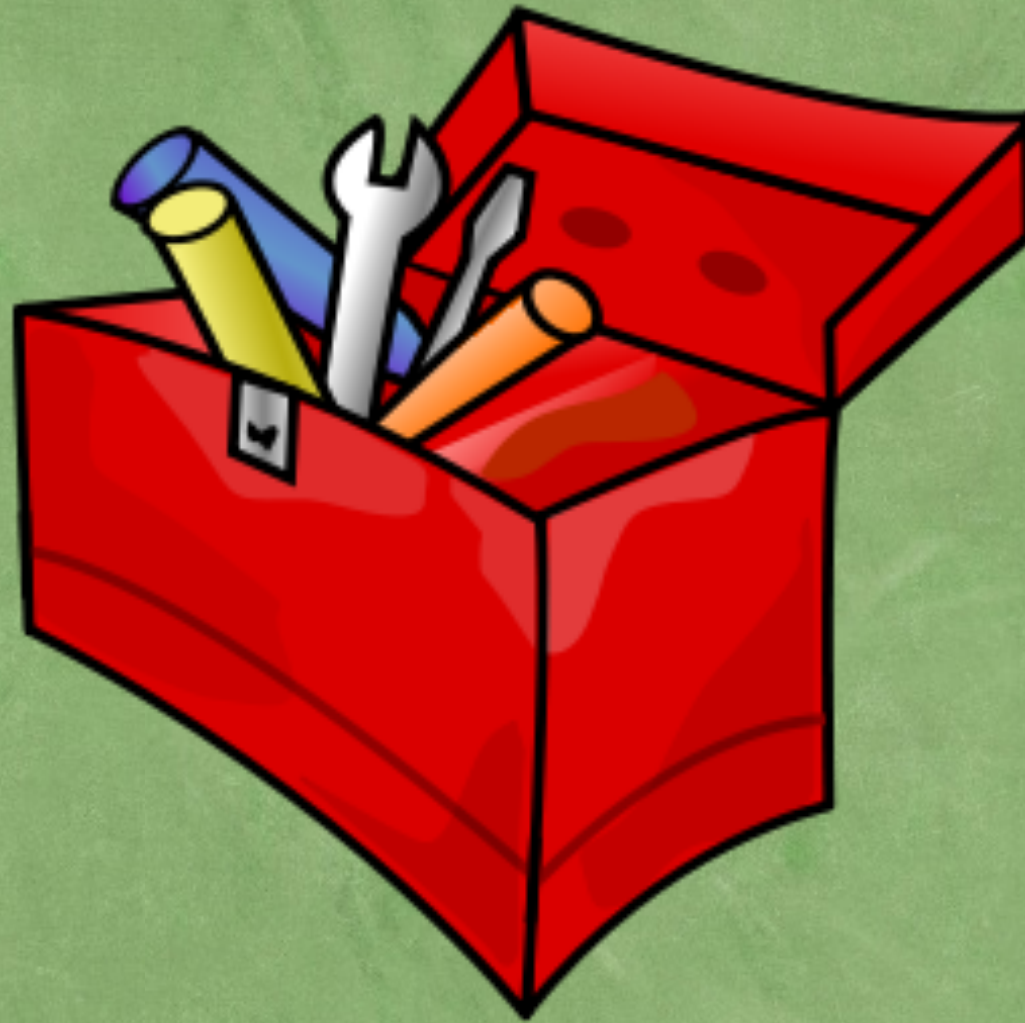
Highlighting



Build on your STRENGTHS
and strengthen your
WEAKNESSES.



Create Your Own Toolbox



Make it your own



www.marcieatkins.com

Send me Questions to
marcie@marcieatkins.com
by Sunday, January 19

I will do a follow up blog post with
answers