Using Literature to Support Your Writing Program
Writers of all ages are inspired by the work of other writers. An important component of any classroom writing program is the sharing of examples of writing by professional authors. You may wish to read these examples to the students and discuss them within the context of the genre being studied, or you may offer them as independent reading selections. While some students are reading independently, you can conference with others who need help during the editing and proofreading process.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Lily’s Crossing*. Named a Newbery Honor Book, this fascinating story follows a young heroine through her life-changing summer of 1944. Colorfully depicted characters and great descriptive passages will delight intermediate and advanced writers.

Greenfield, Eloise. *Honey, I Love*. Each of the works in this collection of African American love poems is written from the perspective of a child. This book is full of vivid imagery and beautiful language.

Hobbs, Will. *Bearstone*. A displaced Native American teen spends a memorable summer with an elderly rancher. Excellent characterizations make this rite-of-passage story a wonderful example of descriptive writing.

Sis, Peter. *Tibet: Through the Red Box*. This book touches on letter writing, personal narrative, and descriptive writing. It’s filled with beautiful illustrations and should interest a writer of any level.

Williams, Dar. *Amalee*. This story is a tender, funny portrayal of a young girl whose world is turned upside down when her father becomes seriously ill. The vividly portrayed cast of characters will inspire descriptive writers of any level.