

## **Bibliography of Children’s Literature for Beginning Practical Writing**

### **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 confer with others who need help during the editing and proofreading processes.

Berry, Joy Wilt. *What to Do When Your Mom or Dad Says . . . “Write to Grandma!”*

This book gives sensible advice about what to include and what not to include in a friendly letter, an invitation, and a response to an invitation. The emphasis is on being “gracious” and writing “only those things you would want someone to write to you.”

Caseley, Judith. *Dear Annie*. Grandpa started sending letters and cards to his granddaughter, Annie, when she was a baby. Now Annie and Grandpa are devoted pen pals. This story shows how friendly letters can enrich the lives of those who send them and those who receive them.

Dunbar, Joyce. *The Secret Friend*. Panda feels a little hurt when he finds out his best friend Gander is writing a letter to a secret friend. It all turns out well when Panda receives the letter and discovers he is Gander’s secret friend. This story illustrates how a friendly letter can bring happiness to the one who receives it.

Inches, Alison. *Corduroy Writes a Letter*. Corduroy, the famous teddy bear, teaches Lisa the importance of speaking up—and that writing letters can be a very good idea. This book gives young readers an introduction to writing business letters.

Keats, Ezra Jack. *A Letter to Amy*. Peter writes an invitation to Amy to ask her to come to his birthday party. Mom reminds him to include some important details. He almost loses the invitation on the way to the mailbox, but everything turns out well. This simple story illustrates the importance of including necessary information in an invitation.

Leedy, Loreen. *Messages in the Mailbox: How to Write a Letter*. An imaginary class consisting of children and animals is headed by a teacher, Mrs. Gator. The students wish they received more mail, so Mrs. Gator advises them to write letters. This book explains and displays examples of forms for various friendly letters and business letters.