



Contents

Acknowledgments xi
Getting Started xii

Goal

1

Composing with Pictures

34

- Strategy 1.1** Talk (as You Draw) 38
- 1.2 Point Around the Pictures 39
 - 1.3 Reread Your Pictures So It Sounds like a Storybook 40
 - 1.4 Reread Your Pictures to Teach 41
 - 1.5 Add Detail to Make Pictures Easier to Read 42
 - 1.6 Label Your Pictures 43
 - 1.7 Look Back and Say, "How Can I Make This Clearer?" 44
 - 1.8 Make Your Picture Look like the Picture in Your Mind 45
 - 1.9 Left to Right 46
 - 1.10 You Can Come Back to a Piece and Do More 47
 - 1.11 Drew the People? Draw the Place! 48
 - 1.12 Writing Across the Pages 49
 - 1.13 A Series of Pictures to Show Change 50
 - 1.14 Circles and Sticks 51
 - 1.15 Drawing with Shapes 52
 - 1.16 Touch, Then Draw 53
 - 1.17 Draw (the Best You Can) and Move On! 54
 - 1.18 Imagine It, Make It! 55

Goal

2

56

Engagement: Independence, Increasing Volume, and Developing a Writing Identity

- Strategy 2.1** Create Your Best Environment 62
- 2.2 Picture the End! (Or, Imagine It Done) 63
 - 2.3 Listen. Praise. 64
 - 2.4 Use the Room 65
 - 2.5 Decide a Piece Is "Finished" (for Now)—and Self-Start a New One 66
 - 2.6 Writers Are Problem Solvers 67
 - 2.7 The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword 68
 - 2.8 Keep Your Pencil in Your Hand/Fingers on the Keyboard 69
 - 2.9 Partners Can Give Gentle Reminders to Stay on Track 70
 - 2.10 Silence the "It's No Good" Voice 71
 - 2.11 Make a Plan for Writing Time 72
 - 2.12 Reread to Jump Back In 73
 - 2.13 Keep Objects Close 74
 - 2.14 Set a "More" Goal for the Whole Writing Time 75
 - 2.15 Break Up Your Writing Time into Smaller Chunks 76
 - 2.16 Stuck with Writing? Read. 77
 - 2.17 Imagine Your Audience 78
 - 2.18 Keep a Side Project 79
 - 2.19 Consult a Fellow Writer 80
 - 2.20 Experiment with Change 81
 - 2.21 Why Do You Write? 82
 - 2.22 One Bite at a Time 83
 - 2.23 Your Aim: Black on White 84
 - 2.24 Make It a Habit 85
 - 2.25 Live Like Someone Consumed by a Project 86
 - 2.26 Write to Vent, Then Turn to Your Project 87
 - 2.27 Be Realistic 88

**Goal
3****Generating and Collecting Ideas**

90

- Strategy 3.1** Important People 94
- 3.2** Moments with Strong Feelings 95
- 3.3** Observe Closely 96
- 3.4** Photo Starts 97
- 3.5** Mapping the Heart 98
- 3.6** Reread and Look for Patterns 99
- 3.7** Writing to Change the World! 100
- 3.8** Walk Your World 101
- 3.9** Interview to Dig for and Uncover Topics 102
- 3.10** Scrapbook Your Life (to Write About It Later) 103
- 3.11** Mine Mentor Texts for Topics 104
- 3.12** These Are a Few of My Favorite Things 105
- 3.13** Start with a Character 106
- 3.14** Listen for (and Write!) Music 107
- 3.15** Jot Today, Write Tomorrow 108
- 3.16** Give Yourself Exercises/Assignments 109
- 3.17** Get Sparked by Setting 110
- 3.18** Tour Your Home 111
- 3.19** Always Times, One Time 112
- 3.20** Ideas for Other Genres Might Be Hiding (in Plain Sight!) 113
- 3.21** Borrow a (Spark) Line 114
- 3.22** Found Poems 115
- 3.23** Over and Over 116
- 3.24** Wonder, "What If . . . ?" 117
- 3.25** Mix and Match Story Elements 118
- 3.26** Word Mapping 119
- 3.27** If It Could Go on Facebook, You Can Jot It in a Notebook 120
- 3.28** Ask Yourself Questions (and Then Answer Them) 121
- 3.29** Collect Triggers 122
- 3.30** Subtopics Hiding in Topics 123
- 3.31** Purposefully Wander 124
- 3.32** Abstract Issues, Specific Examples 125
- 3.33** Scan the Newspaper 126
- 3.34** Read Something on an Unfamiliar Topic 127
- 3.35** Person vs. Nature 128
- 3.36** Find Characters and Ideas in the World 129
- 3.37** Defining Moments 130
- 3.38** Start with an Outlandish Claim 131

**Goal
4****Focus/Meaning**

132

- Strategy 4.1** Make Your Pictures and Your Words Agree 136
- 4.2** Focus in Time 137
- 4.3** Find the Heart 138
- 4.4** Write a Title 139
- 4.5** Write About a Pebble 140
- 4.6** Zoom In on a Moment of Importance 141
- 4.7** Ask Questions to Focus 142
- 4.8** Find Your Passion to Focus 143
- 4.9** Imagine Your Audience and Consider Your Purpose 144
- 4.10** Write a Poem to Try On a Focus 145
- 4.11** Cut It to the Bone 146
- 4.12** Underline One Line (That Says the Most) 147
- 4.13** Their Topic, Your Idea 148
- 4.14** Use a Search Engine to Find Connections 149
- 4.15** Focus on an Image 150
- 4.16** Find a Theme in Your Collection 151
- 4.17** Craft an "Elevator Speech" 152
- 4.18** Craft a Thesis 153
- 4.19** The "So What?" Rule 154
- 4.20** Write "Off the Page" 155
- 4.21** Focus on an Issue 156
- 4.22** What Problem Are You Solving? 157
- 4.23** Experimental Draft to Find Focus 158
- 4.24** Let Available Sources Steer Your Focus 159
- 4.25** Shape Your Focus with Active Verbs 160

Organization and Structure

- Strategy 5.1** Pattern Books 168
- 5.2** Say Say Say, Sketch Sketch Sketch, Write Write Write 169
- 5.3** Add a Page, Subtract a Page 170
- 5.4** Move a Page to a New Place 171
- 5.5** All About or One Time? 172
- 5.6** Teaching Texts: How-Tos 173
- 5.7** Organize in Sequence 174
- 5.8** Uh-Oh . . . UH-OH . . . Phew 175
- 5.9** Beef Up the Middle 176
- 5.10** Question–Answer 177
- 5.11** End in the Moment 178
- 5.12** End with Last Words from the Character 179
- 5.13** Start with a Table of Contents 180
- 5.14** Parts of a Topic: Features and Characteristics 181
- 5.15** Parts of a Topic: Kinds 182
- 5.16** Moving from Chunk to Chunk 183
- 5.17** Line Breaks 184
- 5.18** Start with a Plan in Mind 185
- 5.19** Create Urgency 186
- 5.20** Nonfiction Leads 187
- 5.21** Lead by Addressing the Reader 188
- 5.22** Audiences for Information 189
- 5.23** Draw Your Layout 190
- 5.24** Outline, Reoutline, Outline Again 191
- 5.25** Lay Out Pages to See the Architecture 192
- 5.26** Take Scissors to Your Draft 193
- 5.27** Draw Out (Don't Summarize) to Build Suspense 194
- 5.28** Repetition/List Structure 195
- 5.29** Multiscene Storyboarding 196
- 5.30** Problem–Solution Structure for Persuasive Writing 197
- 5.31** Moving Quickly (or Slowly) Through Time 198
- 5.32** Take a Piece, Rework the Genre or Structure Several Times 199
- 5.33** Headings, Subheadings, Sub-Subheadings 200
- 5.34** Weight the Parts of Your Piece 201
- 5.35** Coming Full Circle 202
- 5.36** Seesaw Structure 203
- 5.37** Conclude with the Big Idea 204
- 5.38** Parallel Story 205
- 5.39** Write the Bones, Then Go Back to Flesh It Out 206
- 5.40** Leading with Contrast 207

- Strategy 6.1** Pictures Teach, Words Teach 212
- 6.2** Add More to Your Pictures (Then, Maybe More to Your Words!) 213
- 6.3** Speech Bubbles Let Your Characters Talk 214
- 6.4** Act It Out . . . Then Get It Down 215
- 6.5** “Nudge” Paper 216
- 6.6** Teach with Diagrams 217
- 6.7** See the World like a Poet (Metaphor and Simile) 218
- 6.8** Flaps and Carets 219
- 6.9** “What *Else* Happened?” 220
- 6.10** Prove It 221
- 6.11** Take Notes from an Illustration or a Photo 222
- 6.12** Cracking Open Nouns 223
- 6.13** Show, Don't Tell: Using Senses to Describe Places 224
- 6.14** Show, Don't Tell: Emotions 225
- 6.15** Let Your Readers Know Who's Talking! 226
- 6.16** Read Mentor Texts with Two Lenses: Information, Aesthetic 227
- 6.17** Research from People (Interviews) 228
- 6.18** Keeping a Research Notebook 229
- 6.19** Read, Sketch, Stretch 230
- 6.20** External Character Description 231
- 6.21** Write the “Inside Story” 232
- 6.22** Support Your Facts 233
- 6.23** Partner Facts: Ask Yourself, “How?” 234
- 6.24** Use a Refrain 235
- 6.25** Cracking Open Verbs 236
- 6.26** Exploring Options for Setting 237
- 6.27** Picture Your Character 238
- 6.28** Tell What It's Not (to Say What It Is) 239
- 6.29** Be Patient, Go Slow 240
- 6.30** Bring in the Periphery 241
- 6.31** Use Empathy to Figure Out What to Add 242
- 6.32** Writing Through a Mask 243
- 6.33** How Does Your Character Talk? 244
- 6.34** Character Dialogue and Dialect for Historical Accuracy 245
- 6.35** Use Imagery to Make a Fact Come Alive 246
- 6.36** Get the Sound (of Some Mentors) in Your Head 247
- 6.37** Be Your Own Harshes Critic 248
- 6.38** Mentor Sentence 249
- 6.39** Talk to Yourself 250
- 6.40** Character Gestures to Show Traits 251
- 6.41** Anecdotes Can Teach and Give Evidence 252
- 6.42** Rule of Threes 253
- 6.43** Lie (to Tell the Truth) 254
- 6.44** Weave in Symbolism 255
- 6.45** Clue In the Reader to the Past (Flashback) 256

**Goal
7****Word Choice**

258

- Strategy 7.1** Onomatopoeia: Sound Effects 262
- 7.2** Write with Authority: Domain-Specific Vocabulary 263
- 7.3** Precise Nouns 264
- 7.4** Personify to Bring Objects to Life 265
- 7.5** Verbs That Match the Meaning 266
- 7.6** Shades of Meaning 267
- 7.7** Alphabox 268
- 7.8** Sneaky Sounds: Alliteration, Consonance, and Assonance 269
- 7.9** Rhythm 270
- 7.10** Read Aloud to Find “Clunks” 271
- 7.11** Words That Match the Audience 272
- 7.12** Revisit the Language Gems in Your Notebook 273
- 7.13** Make Your Own Word 274
- 7.14** Leave Only the Essential Words 275
- 7.15** Rhyme Time 276
- 7.16** Clever Titles, Headings, and Subheadings 277
- 7.17** Hyperbole 278
- 7.18** Vary Words to Eliminate Repetition 279
- 7.19** Watch Your Tone 280
- 7.20** Choose Your Pronouns 281
- 7.21** Short → Long → Short 282
- 7.22** Gut Check Each Word 283
- 7.23** Not “So” “Very” “Nice” 284
- 7.24** Know When to Keep an Adverb 285
- 7.25** Work for More-Precise Language (by Taking Out Adjectives and Adverbs) 286
- 7.26** Rewrite a Line (Again and Again and Again) 288
- 7.27** Surprising Verbs 289
- 7.28** Surprising Nouns 290
- 7.29** Name Your Characters and Places 291
- 7.30** Specific, Definite, Concrete: Allow Your Words to Call Up Pictures 292
- 7.31** Omit Needless Words 293

**Goal
8**

294

**Conventions: Spelling
and Letter Formation**

- Strategy 8.1** Long or Short Word? 298
- 8.2** Talk like a Turtle 299
- 8.3** Consult the Alphabet Chart 300
- 8.4** Write, Reread, Write, Reread, Repeat 301
- 8.5** When’s It Big? When’s It Small? 302
- 8.6** Penmanship Counts! 303
- 8.7** Write Word Wall Words in a Snap! 304
- 8.8** Vowel Charts for the Middles of Words 305
- 8.9** Spell as Best You Can—on the First Go 306
- 8.10** Use Your Resources to Spell 307
- 8.11** Part-by-Part Spelling 308
- 8.12** Chin Drops 309
- 8.13** Visualize the Word and Have a Go 310
- 8.14** Use Words You Know to Spell Unknown Words 311
- 8.15** Read Your Writing Backward (and Catch Spelling Mistakes!) 312
- 8.16** Circle and Spell 313
- 8.17** Making It Plural (Consonants Plus -s or -es) 314
- 8.18** Turn to Spell-Check 315
- 8.19** Check for Homophones 316
- 8.20** Apostrophes for Contractions 317
- 8.21** To Apostrophe or Not to Apostrophe? (Possessives) 318
- 8.22** Making It Plural (While Changing the Base Word) 319

**Goal
9**

320

**Conventions: Grammar
and Punctuation**

- Strategy 9.1** Make Lines for What You Want to Write 324
- 9.2** Finger Space 325
- 9.3** Read with Your Finger 326
- 9.4** Repeated Rereadings to Check a Checklist 327
- 9.5** Does It Sound like a Book? 328
- 9.6** Ellipses 329
- 9.7** To *And* or Not to *And*? 330
- 9.8** Guess What! Complete Sentences 331
- 9.9** Don't Overdo It! 332
- 9.10** Colons 333
- 9.11** Punctuating (and Paragraphing) Speech 334
- 9.12** Pause for Periods 335
- 9.13** Voice Comma 336
- 9.14** Group Words for Comprehension: Commas 337
- 9.15** Say It with Feeling! 338
- 9.16** Paragraph Starters 339
- 9.17** Read Your Draft Aloud and *Listen* 340
- 9.18** Match the Number of the Subject to the Number of the Verb 341
- 9.19** Knowing When You Need a New Paragraph 342
- 9.20** Negative + Negative = Positive 343
- 9.21** Irregular Verbs and Subject-Verb Agreement 344
- 9.22** Eliminating Repetition with Sentence Combining 345
- 9.23** Revising Run-On Sentences 346
- 9.24** Creating Complex Sentences 347
- 9.25** Creating Compound Sentences 348
- 9.26** Dashes 349
- 9.27** Play with Pauses 350
- 9.28** *I* or *Me*? *Us* or *We*? *They* or *Them*? 351
- 9.29** Parenthetical Expressions 352
- 9.30** Verb Tense Consistency Within a Sentence 353
- 9.31** Considering Sentence Length 354
- 9.32** Semicolons 355
- 9.33** Accentuate the Positive (Tightening Up Sentences) 356
- 9.34** Rephrase for Clarity 357
- 9.35** When Did the Action Happen? (Simple, Continuous, and Perfect Tenses) 358

**Goal
10**

360

**Collaborating with Writing
Partners and Clubs**

- Strategy 10.1** Use a Partner to Hear More Sounds in Words 364
- 10.2** Using Partners to Make Writing More Readable 365
- 10.3** Storytelling from Sketches 366
- 10.4** Talk Around the Idea, Then Write 367
- 10.5** Make Promises (You Can Keep) 368
- 10.6** Partner Inquisition (to Get Your Thinking Going) 369
- 10.7** Tell Me: Does It Make Sense? 370
- 10.8** Partner Space 371
- 10.9** Help Wanted/Help Offered 372
- 10.10** PQP (Praise, Question, Polish) 373
- 10.11** Tell Me: Does It Match My Intention? 374
- 10.12** Interrupt Your Partner 375
- 10.13** Dig for Fictional Details with a Partner 376
- 10.14** Form a Club 377
- 10.15** Storytelling to Figure Out Point of View and Perspective 378
- 10.16** Tell Me: How Does It Affect You? 379
- 10.17** Code the Text 380
- 10.18** Written Response 381
- 10.19** Changes and Choices 382

Appendix: Publishing and Celebrating Writing 384
Bibliography 397