**Kristina’s Top 10 Favorite Picture Books**

1. [***The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/the-kid-who-invented-the-popsicle)*,* Don Wulffson—(Technically, this isn’t a picture book. In fact there isn’t a single illustration in the book. But it’s small in size and inexpensive like many paperbacks.) This little nonfiction text is full of super-short summaries of how everyday objects of today were invented (e.g., high heels, hula hoop, Scotch tape, etc.). It’s a fabulous resource for what well-written report or summary writing should sound like. It’s full of facts and specifics but also anecdotes and comparisons. It’s too good of a text for me to leave off my Top 10 List!
2. [***Saturdays and Teacakes***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/saturdays-and-teacakes)*,* Lester Laminack—A masterful combination of exact nouns and vivid verbs makes this a perfect mentor text for writing. The simple story of a single Saturday is told with such believability it’s as if you are really there. (This text could also serve as an introduction to memoir writing in the upper grades.)
3. [***The Mysteries of Harris Burdick***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/the-mysteries-of-harris-burdick)*,* Chris Van Allsburg—Filled with great writing prompts for creative writing, it’s also a valuable resource for targeting the questioning strategy in reading comprehension. This is a terrific tool for getting kids to practice sincere reader questioning and curiosity about a text.
4. [***Fireflies!***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/fireflies)Julie Brinckloe—A wonderful memoir that includes great examples of “show, don’t tell” writing and human emotion. Not to mention it’s a fabulous example of writing about a narrow topic. The entire text spans an hour or so of time.
5. [***Yo! Yes?***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/yo-yes) Chris Raschka—I can’t think of a better book to aid children in *reading* punctuation and *hearing* punctuation marks. Love the way this works for reading and writing!
6. [***Arnie, the Doughnut***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/arnie-the-doughnut)*,* Laurie Keller— Looking for a book to demonstrate the three main elements of voice? This is the perfect book. It has a clear audience, tons of feelings and emotion, and a strong point of view. Love it! Love it! Love it!
7. [***The Harmonica***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/the-harmonica)***,*** Tony Johnston—Inspired by the true story of a Holocaust survivor, this book can act as a bridge, building background knowledge in social studies. But more important is the description and tone of this text told through the eyes of a young boy.
8. [***How are you Peeling?***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/how-are-you-peeling?)Saxton Freymann—A fun and uniquely expressive way to introduce emotions and the trait of voice. Students can broaden their list of feeling words by simply viewing the photographs in this simple text. They will think of many feeling words beyond happy, glad, sad, and mad when reading this text.
9. [***Eats, Shoots & Leaves***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/eats-shoots-and-leaves)*,* Lynne Truss—What a great way to help kids enjoy proper punctuation. The author reveals the same sentence on the left and right pages. But depending on where the comma is placed within the sentence, it adjusts the meaning and consequently the corresponding illustration. This book makes you laugh out loud. Who knew a comma (or the lack thereof) could be so funny?
10. [***One of Those Days***](https://theliteracystore.com/products/one-of-those-days)***,***Rosenthal & Doughty—A collection of one liners that could act as a springboard for writing topics. Everyone can relate and will want to help list the events for each of “those days.” Not to mention, students could brainstorm additional “days” missing from the book.

**Writing Mini-Lessons Resources**

[***Launching the Writer’s Workshop: Grades K-2***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/6-traits-of-writing/products/launching-the-writers-workshop-grades-k-2-3rd-edition) - The first 50 pages of this resource target the heart of what every teacher wants for the initial weeks of school. The remaining 65 pages of the book provide what every teacher wants when planning writing units. Physical copy is 127 spiral-bound pages with exclusive website access to lesson resources.

[***Launching the Writer’s Workshop: Grades 3-12***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/6-traits-of-writing/products/launching-the-writers-workshop-grades-3-12-3rd-edition)- The first 50 pages of this resource target the heart of what every teacher wants for the initial weeks of school. The second half of this resource includes over 50 explicit mini-lessons that target the most essential writing skills throughout the rest of the year. Physical copy is 125 spiral-bound pages with exclusive website access to lesson resources.

[**Writing Mini-Lesson Labels**](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/mini-lessons/products/writing-minilesson-labels) - Product consists of six 8.5" x 11" full sheet pre-printed labels. NOTE: On each of the six labels, there is also room to write in additional skills and lesson ideas.

[***100 Writing Mini-Lessons***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/mini-lessons/products/100-writing-lessons) - This comprehensive resource gives you the tools you need to successfully—and joyfully—teach writing. Grades 4-8, 240 pages

[***Using Picture Books to Teach Writing with the Traits: Grades K-2***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/mini-lessons/products/using-picture-books-teach-writing-with-the-traits-k-2) - In this resource, the authors have organized over 150 annotations of new and classic books, organized by the traits. Grades K-2, 112 pages

[***Using Mentor Texts to Teach Writing with the Traits: Middle School***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/mini-lessons/products/using-mentor-texts-to-teach-writing-with-the-traits-middle-school) - 150 fiction and nonfiction books—annotated and organized by trait. 20 ready-to-use lessons are also included. Grades 6-8, 128 pages

[**6-Traits Cheat Sheet**](https://theliteracystore.com/products/6-traits-cheat-sheet)— This makes for a handy reference tool for you when reading aloud or conferencing with writers. Physical product measures 5.5" x 4.25" printed on full color, glossy heavy card stock.

[***6-Traits Picture Book Recommendations***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/6-traits-of-writing/products/6t-picture-book-recommendations) - This product includes: A listing of picture books by trait, divided into each grade (K-12: Grades K-1, 2-5, 6-12). Link to TheLiteracyStore.com for more detailed information on each title.

[***Trait Tracker Cards***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/6-traits-of-writing/products/trait-trackers) - Grades K-12, Each physical set includes: 1 introduction card + 1 overview card + 20 mentor text cards (one for each book). Each card measures 2.75" x 8.5" and is printed on durable card stock.

[***Voice Poster***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/6-traits-of-writing/products/voice-poster) - Twenty images help students hone their writer's voice. Guaranteed to generate a lively classroom discussion. Physical poster measures 18" x 24" and comes folded for easy storage.

[***Writer Conference Compliments Card***](https://theliteracystore.com/collections/6-traits-of-writing/products/writer-conference-compliment-card) - ﻿When conferring with writers, provide them each a trait-specific compliment, as well as a trait-based comment/suggestion. Physical copy is an 8.5" x 5.5" full-color card printed on glossy, heavy card stock.