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Trapped in a Video Game Kensington Books

Practical guidance and advice on writing from professional authors.

Buried Alive Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

Does Rivers have room in his life for two very different fathers? "The truth is Uncle Daddy isn't either my father or my uncle. He's actually Mom's uncle. I was three years old when he came to live with us." Since Rivers's real father left him and his mom six years ago, Uncle Daddy has been taking care of Rivers in all the ways a dad cares for a son -- even teaching him how to play baseball. Then his real father returns. Rivers is confused and angry. He

had always thought that he'd express his anger at his father by socking him in the stomach. Now, face to face with him, Rivers' feelings are more complicated than he'd imagined. Will the reappearance of his dad affect his relationship with Uncle Daddy? This heart-felt story, told from the point of view of a nine-and-a-half-year-old boy, is filled with insight and touches of humor. "Beneath the wild humor, there are surprisingly subtle messages about responsibility and courage." - School Library Journal

Walking Trees Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
 The bestselling author of Pledged returns with a groundbreaking look at the pressure to achieve faced by America's teens In Pledged, Alexandra Robbins followed four college girls to produce a riveting narrative that read like fiction. Now, in The Overachievers, Robbins uses

the same captivating style to explore how our high-stakes educational culture has spiraled out of control. During the year of her ten-year reunion, Robbins goes back to her high school, where she follows heart-tuggingly likeable students including "AP" Frank, who grapples with horrifying parental pressure to succeed; Audrey, whose panicked perfectionism overshadows her life; Sam, who worries his years of overachieving will be wasted if he doesn't attend a name-brand college; Taylor, whose ambition threatens her popular girl status; and The Stealth Overachiever, a mystery junior who flies under the radar. Robbins tackles teen issues such as intense stress, the student and teacher cheating epidemic, sports rage, parental guilt, the black market for study drugs, and a college admissions process so cutthroat that students are

driven to suicide and depression because of a B. With a compelling mix of fast-paced narrative and fascinating investigative journalism, *The Overachievers* aims both to calm the admissions frenzy and to expose its escalating dangers.

Grandpa Never Lies Harper Collins
Ralph Fletcher has long mentored writing teachers—now he presents the ultimate mentor-text resource for teaching students to write. In *Mentor Author, Mentor Texts*, Ralph shares 24 short, high-interest texts and accompanying *Writer's Notes* with your students. Arranged from least difficult to most challenging, they are ready for writers at every level. Online, Ralph also provides whiteboard-ready versions of the texts as well as recordings where he reads 17 of his pieces. *Mentor Author, Mentor Texts* Includes: 24 mentor texts written by Ralph, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more *Writer's Notes* that give students a peek into Ralph's thinking and craft. Online access to whiteboard-ready versions of Ralph's mentor texts. Online access to recordings of Ralph reading 17 of his pieces. Suggestions from colleagues nationwide for using Ralph's texts in the classroom. Let your teaching mentor become your students' writing mentor... ..with engaging mentor texts written and read by Ralph Fletcher... "I wrote all 24 pieces in this book. You'll find an assortment of genres: stories, memoir, poems, essays, and excerpts from novels. The various texts are ordered from easiest (least challenging) to hardest (most challenging). I tried to select short, high-interest pieces. Each one stands on its own with a beginning, middle, and ending. I tried to choose pieces that would bring a sense of closure by the end." ...writer's notes that give students an inside peek into craft... "My *Writer's Notes* introduce the text, explain my thinking behind various decisions, and point out a few things I want kids to notice. With certain pieces, especially the last three, I highlight revisions I made along the way. I tried hard not to take the mystery out of good writing. Instead these notes are my way of opening the door and leading the student into the text." ...and practical, classroom-tested suggestions like this from your colleagues "One of my students, Suzy, knows that she struggles to provide enough detail in her non-fiction pieces. For her piece about soccer, she told me that she knew she needed to include more details because she didn't want the reader to be confused. We had already read Ralph's "Squirmy Wizards of Recycling," so we looked at the *Writer's Notes*. Ralph said he had brainstormed questions that

readers may have had as they read about worm composting, and he then tried to include the answers to those questions in the piece. Suzy decided that she would write down questions that she thought her reader might still have about soccer and then make sure those questions were answered in her writing. Since both Suzy and I have already developed a relationship with Ralph through his texts, it felt like we were inviting an old friend to join our conference." Kate Norem Morris, Teacher, The Bush School, Seattle, Washington

The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups: The Second File Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
A poetic description of the special relationship between a grandfather and a young child.

Knucklehead Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

Ralph is content in his simple life in Marshfield, Massachusetts, but when his father tells him that the family must move to Chicago for his new job, Ralph worries about what it will feel like to leave so many of his favorite people, places, and things behind. The colorful boyhood of a popular author comes to life in this personal account.

Hello, Harvest Moon Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny, anyway? Growing up as one of six brothers was a good start, but that was just the beginning. Throw in Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, jokes told at family dinner, and the result is *Knucklehead*. Part memoir, part scrapbook, this hilarious trip down memory lane provides a unique glimpse into the formation of a creative mind and a free spirit. Watch a QuickTime trailer for this book.

Little Author in the Big Woods Macmillan

Unlock the secret to being a writer! Turn to this practical and enjoyable guide by the bestselling author of *A Writer's Notebook* and the ALA Notable Book *Fig Pudding*. Surprise! There is no secret to being a writer. But there is a process. Good writing isn't forged by magic or hatched out of thin air. Good writing happens when you follow certain steps to take control of your sentences—to make your words do what you want them to do. This book lifts the curtain on how writers work and helps aspiring writers discover their own writing process. Perfect for classrooms, *How Writers Work* is full of practical wisdom. It's tailored especially for young writers, but aspiring authors of

all ages can benefit from bestselling writer Ralph Fletcher's tips. Everyone can struggle with the writing process at times. Unlock your potential by reading *How Writers Work!*

Marshfield Dreams Christy Ottaviano Books-Henry Holt

The colorful boyhood of a popular author comes to life in this personal account. Imagine learning from a nosy classmate that your mother is having yet another baby. To Ralph's classmates, news of one more Fletcher baby is just "scuttlebutt." But for Ralph, the oldest of nine, being part of a large family means more kids to join in the fun—from making tripods in the woods and "snicking" up the rug, to raising chicks and even discovering a meteor (well, maybe). It doesn't feel like there's life beyond Marshfield, Massachusetts. Then one day Dad's new job moves the family to Chicago, and there's so much Ralph has to leave behind. In this humorous and captivating memoir, Ralph Fletcher traces the roots of his storytelling.

Arrian's Lion Andrews McMeel Publishing
A lyrical picture book memoir of one boy and his beloved grandmother, from award-winning author Lester L. Laminack. Every Saturday, a young boy rides his bicycle up and down country roads, past farms and a filling station, until he reaches his Mammaw's house. She is waiting for him. There, the young boy helps her. She picks tomatoes and he pushes the lawnmower through the dew-wet grass. But the best part of the day is helping his Mammaw make teacakes from scratch and eating the hot, sweet cakes fresh from the oven. Lester L. Laminack's richly detailed prose perfectly portrays the special relationship of a young boy and his grandmother. Award-winning illustrator Chris Soentpiet's remarkably detailed watercolor images beautifully capture the setting.

Uncle Daddy HarperCollins

Here is the story of Roberto Alvarez, whose court battle against racism and school segregation in Lemon Grove, CA, is considered the first time an immigrant community used the courts to successfully fight injustice. Roberto Alvarez's world changed the day he could no longer attend Lemon Grove Grammar School in the small, rural community where he lived near San Diego, California. He and the other Mexican American students were told they had to go to a new, separate school. A school just for them. A school where they would not hold back the other students. But Roberto and the other students and their families believed the new school's real purpose was to segregate, to separate. They didn't think that was right, or just, or legal. This

historical fiction picture book by Sibert award-winning author Larry Dane Brimner and Pura Belpré award-winning illustrator Maya Gonzalez follows Roberto and the other immigrant families on their journey in 1931 as they battle against separation and prejudice in one of America's landmark segregation cases.

The One O'Clock Chop Rowman & Littlefield

Tap into your inner writer with this book of practical advice by the bestselling author of *How Writers Work* and the ALA Notable Book *Fig Pudding*. Writers are just like everyone else—except for one big difference. Most people go through life experiencing daily thoughts and feelings, noticing and observing the world around them. But writers record these thoughts and observations. They react. And they need a special place to record those reactions. Perfect for classrooms, *A Writer's Notebook* gives budding writers a place to keep track of all the little things they notice every day. Young writers will love these useful tips for how to use notes and jottings to create stories and poems of their own.

Flying Solo Heinemann Educational Books Clifford Allyn Abernathy III (just Cliff, for short) is the oldest of six kids in a family that does everything—fighting, laughing, playing, eating, telling stories, and celebrating the holidays—in a big, often outlandish, and sometimes poignant way. Taking the family from Christmas to Christmas, the chapters of *Fig Pudding*, narrated by eleven-year-old Cliff, are complete short stories in themselves. Read together, they tell the tale of life in a large, loving family. Besides a fresh look, this edition includes a brand new story.

Boy Writers Simon and Schuster

The Ozark Mountains in Missouri and Arkansas have had a long history of foraging since indigenous tribes such as

the Osage, Quapaw, and Kickapoo sporadically inhabited the area and utilized the rich natural resources. Settlers from the Appalachians came later and survived on what they could find, trap, and hunt. Foraging remains a major activity among the Ozarks' outdoor community, supported in large part by established local restaurateurs and other buyers of wild herbs, berries, and nuts. *Foraging the Ozarks*, written by local wilderness expert Bo Brown, highlights about a hundred commonly found edibles in the Interior Highlands, from ubiquitous herbs to endemic species. With sidebars, recipes, helpful tips, and toxin warnings throughout, *Foraging the Ozarks* is the only guidebook the Ozark outdoor enthusiast will need to pick it, cook it, and eat it.

A Writer's Notebook Penguin

Urgent! It's happened again! David Wisniewski has completed another daring raid into the vault of parent rules. Within these forbidden pages lurk the real reasons why grown-ups want you to brush your teeth, eat your breakfast, and clean under your bed. The truth has been hidden for centuries, but the time of mystery is over. Grab a flashlight! Get under cover! It's time for ... *The Secret Knowledge of Grown-Ups! The Second File*

Ghost Hawk Harper Collins

Jared Jenson lives next to Woodland Cemetery at the far corner of Marshfield. He used to think it was funny that he and his best friend, Stan, live by cemeteries, but now it's starting to creep him out. In his dreams each night, he sees people dragging bodies through the cemetery . . . until he is dragged for real! Ghostly grave robbers think he is supposed to be buried in the Potter's Field grave. Can Jared, Stan, and the rest of the Zombie Hunters track down Jared's nightmare and free them all from the grave robbers before it's too late?

Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. *Calico* is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO.

Foraging the Ozarks Macmillan

At the end of a winter-long journey into manhood, Little Hawk returns to find his village decimated by a white man's plague and soon, despite a fresh start, Little Hawk dies violently but his spirit remains trapped, seeing how his world changes.

Live Writing Simon and Schuster

A triumphant tale of a young woman and her difficult childhood, *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience, redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and wonderfully vibrant. Jeannette Walls was the second of four children raised by anti-institutional parents in a household of extremes.

Knots in My Yo-Yo String Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

A memoir in which the author, a staff developer for the Teachers College Writing Project from September 1985 to June 1986, recalls his experiences teaching New York City public school educators how to teach writing.

How Writers Work Harper Collins

Many girls in elementary and middle school fall in love with the Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. What they don't always realize is that Wilder's books are autobiographical. This narrative biography describes more of the details of the young Laura's real life as a young pioneer homesteading with her family on many adventurous journeys. This biography, complete with charming illustrations, points out the differences between the fictional series as well as the many similarities. Yona Zeldis

McDonough's *Little Author in the Big Woods* is a fascinating story of a much-celebrated writer.