

# MINI LESSON



## Clarifying Writing

<p><b>CLEAR MOMENT IN TIME</b></p>	<p>Children have a tendency to write "bed to bed" stories and have difficulty focusing on a clear moment in time. Provide children with some wonderful examples and help them to see the importance and impact of a strong focus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>When I Was Young in the Mountains</u> by Cynthia Rylant</li><li>• <u>Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul</u> (a collection of clearly focused personal narratives)</li><li>• <u>The Paperboy</u> by Dav Pilkey</li><li>• <u>Smoky Night</u> by Eve Bunting</li><li>• <u>Night Tree</u> by Eve Bunting</li><li>• <u>The Great Kapok Tree</u> by Lynn Cherry</li><li>• <u>Snow Day</u> by Barbara M. Josse</li><li>• <u>Owl Moon</u> by Jane Yolen</li></ul>
<p><b>FRACTURED FAIRY TALES</b></p>	<p>Children love fairy tales. Reading fractured versions of fairy tales can be fun, but more importantly, it can teach children basic plot structure and organization skills. After studying different fairy tales and fractured versions, they can follow the structure of the basic tale in order to create their own. Fortunately there are lots of models available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>True Story of the Three Little Pigs</u> by Jon Scieszka</li><li>• <u>Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters</u> by Steptoe</li><li>• <u>The Paper Bag Princess</u> by Robert Munsch</li></ul>
<p><b>VERBS</b></p>	<p>Verbs are the powerhouse of voice. Verbs are active. They are action. They take writing from passive to active. A strong verb punches writing up and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>The Magic Pebble</u> by William Steig</li><li>• <u>Kites Sail High</u> by Ruth Heller</li></ul>

	gives it strength. This list is of picture books that uses verbs effectively.	
<b>FORESHADOWING</b>	A literary device where the author gives the reader clues about events that will occur later in the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>Owl Moon</u></a> by Jane Yolen</li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Encounter</u></a> by Jane Yolen</li><li>• <a href="#"><u>How Many Days to America?</u></a> by Eve Bunting</li></ul>

