

Mining Mentor Moves to Write About a Place



Mentor texts are pieces of professional writing that guide and inspire our writing (Marchetti + O'Dell, 2015). These pieces give us a vision for the type of writing we might want to create and the mentor writers show us moves we can make in our own writing.

We've selected two pieces of observational outdoor writing for us to mine for writing moves – the strategies we might want to employ to write about our own outdoor writing place!

Here's how to do it!

1

Read the text like a reader.

Read first just for comprehension. Who is speaking? Where are they? What is happening? What is this place like?

2

Read again like a writer, noticing how the piece was written.

As you read, what jumps out at you? What writing choices feel significant? What feels on-purpose? No noticing is too small!

3

Think about effect.

Make a hypothesis: why did the writer choose to make each writing move you noticed? How does it impact the reading experience? What is the effect on the piece?

4

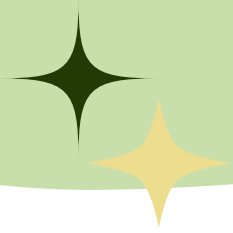
Give each move a name that describes what it is and what it does.

These don't need to be official literary terms or elegant phrases. You just want to label each move with a name that will help you use it and remember it for use in the future!

5

Select moves to try in your own piece of writing.

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Resources for Mining Mentor Moves

- [Two mentor texts](#) (Use one or both!) for place-based writing
- [Annotated mentor texts](#) (So you can see some of the writing moves we noticed!)