



What a Writer Needs, Second Edition

By Ralph Fletcher

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What a Writer Needs, Second Edition By Ralph Fletcher

"This is no recipe book: I have tried not to be formulaic. Rather, I want to suggest the richness of options, the myriad possibilities open to the writer at any given moment. Young writers need to know what can be done with language."

-Ralph Fletcher

For more than 20 years, Ralph Fletcher's *What a Writer Needs* has been a beloved bestseller, trusted in classrooms, district inservices, and teacher-preparation programs across the U.S. Now Ralph's second edition makes *What a Writer Needs* an even more powerful tool for turning students into writers-and for teachers to improve their own writing.

In *What A Writer Needs*, Ralph presents a crash course on the elements of writing, with chapters on how to create vivid details, compelling voice, a sense of place, believable characters, tension, engaging leads and endings, just to name a few. Readers will develop a deeper, more profound knowledge of writing and will find the book eminently practical as well. In fact, Ralph has added two entirely new chapters on revision and nonfiction writing that are immediately useful for meeting Common Core writing standards. It also includes a completely updated list of suggested mentor texts, handpicked by Ralph, and sorted by the craft element each demonstrates.

What A Writer Needs, Second Edition, is a desert-island book for any writing teacher. Personal and anecdotal, it includes a wealth of lively writing samples drawn both from student writers and professionals. Experience Ralph's keen instructional insight, his careful attention to students and their work, and his experienced-honed wisdom about the essentials of great writing. Discover the pleasure of reading and teaching from *What a Writer Needs*. You'll soon find out why Ralph Fletcher's timeless classic is more timely than ever.

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Editorial Review

Review

What a Writer Needs is beautifully written and will move readers to become better writers and better writing teachers!

---**Gail Boushey and Joan Moser**, authors of *The Daily 5*

I truly feel my work is grounded in the fundamental ideas I learned from What a Writer Needs. Reading the second edition, I realize it is as relevant today as it was then.

---**Katie Wood Ray**, author of *About the Authors*

Ralph has accomplished the unthinkable he somehow managed to improve a perfect book! With the addition of a chapter on nonfiction and another on revision, he has given us exactly what every writer needs all over again.

---**Ruth Culham**, author of *6+1 Traits of Writing*

"Since we cannot bring Ralph home with us to help us write our own stories or help us teach our students to write theirs, we are fortunate enough to have the next best thing this book. For that, and for Ralph Fletcher, for his books, his stories about his family, the joy that shines through on every page of this book. I am very grateful and a better teacher to boot."

-----**Jim Burke**, author of *The English Teacher's Companion*

About the Author

Ralph Fletcher has been a mentor to teachers and young writers everywhere. Ralph's latest Heinemann books continue this tradition. His newest book, *Joy Write*, shares the whys and the how of giving students time and autonomy for the playful, low-stakes writing that leads to surprising, high-level growth. *What a Writer Needs, Second Edition* mentors teachers and writers in the elements and craft of writing. *Mentor Author, Mentor Texts* brings inspiration to teachers and students by sharing Ralph's own writing across numerous genres plus writer's notes that reveal his thinking. Ralph frequently works with young writers in schools, and speaks at education conferences in the U.S. and abroad, helping teachers find wiser ways of teaching writing. Ralph is the beloved author of many bestselling teacher professional books including *Writing Workshop: The Essential Guide*; *Craft Lessons*; and *Breathing In, Breathing Out* as well as the author of firsthand classroom materials such as *Teaching the Qualities of Writing* and *Lessons for the Writer's Notebook*. Students know Ralph as the award-winning author of more than 20 books for children and young adults,

including Fig Pudding, Twilight Comes Twice, The Writer's Notebook, and Marshfield Dreams: When I Was a Kid. Ralph Fletcher online » Listen to a recent Heinemann podcast where Ralph talks about Joy Write (17:31). » Read Ralph's latest thoughts at his blog: Living the Writing Life. » Listen to an interview with Ralph on Education Talk Radio (38:29). » Learn more about Ralph at his website RalphFletcher.com and follow him on Twitter @FletcherRalph.

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