

Guidelines for Growing Strong Writers

by Ralph Fletcher

- 1) Create an environment that supports risk
- 2) Establish a predictable classroom routine
- 3) Make sure that the writing matters to them
- 4) Give kids sustained time to write
- 5) Walk the walk: let students see you write
- 6) Build your knowledge base. Writing teachers pull from three pools of knowledge:
 - *how to teach
 - *characteristics of student writers at your grade
 - *what makes good writing
- 6) Respond thoughtfully and skillfully to your writers when you confer with them
- 7) Celebrate their successes (even the little ones)
- 8) Look for the intelligence behind their errors
- 9) Listen for voice
- 10) Build a repertoire of survival strategies
- 11) Use literature to expand their horizons
- 12) Teach the test as *A* genre—not *THE* genre
- 13) Look for support
- 14) Have fun: enjoy their writing!