This book belongs to:
Katie Anthis

Irene C. Fountas
Gay Su Pinnell

Guiding Readers and Writers

Teaching Comprehension, Genre, and Content Literacy

featuring 1,000 leveled books
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing conferences may involve:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✦ Listening to students read the writing aloud.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✦ Helping the writer get to what really matters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✦ Finding out what kind of help the writer wants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✦ Talking with students about specific aspects of his/her writing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✦ Finding the “gems” in a student’s writing and showing them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✦ Reinforcing the writer’s strengths.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✦ Asking the writer what help is needed with this piece of writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✦ Showing the writer how to do something.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✦ Reviewing the writer’s notebook or completed drafts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✦ Setting writing goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✦ Sharing another piece of writing as a model...</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 5-24. Writing Conferences**

**Language to Use in Writing Conferences**

**Teacher**
 ✦ How is your writing going?
 ✦ How can I help you with your writing?
 ✦ What are you working on next in your writing?
 ✦ What did you decide to write about?
 ✦ How did you go about choosing this topic?
 ✦ Where are you in writing your draft?
 ✦ What do you think about this piece of writing?
 ✦ What have you learned about your topic that you want to say?
 ✦ Tell me more about...
 ✦ Read the part that you like best.
 ✦ Read your lead/ending aloud.
 ✦ What do you want to do next in your writing?
 ✦ Do you have any questions about your writing?
 ✦ I noticed that you... How/why did you do that?
 ✦ What is the best part of your writing so far?
 ✦ If you wanted to add to your writing, how would you do that?
 ✦ Is there a part where more information is needed?
 ✦ I noticed you used this word [ ]. How did you go about choosing it?
 ✦ Is there any part of your writing that is confusing?
 ✦ What would you like to do with this piece of writing when it is finished?
 ✦ Have you varied the way your sentences begin?

**Student**
 ✦ My writing is about...
 ✦ I am working on...
 ✦ I chose this topic because...
 ✦ This is my [discovery draft, draft #2, #3, etc.].
 ✦ I need [kind of help] to revise my draft.
 ✦ I am concerned about...
 ✦ I conferred with [peer] and found out that...
 ✦ I want to publish this piece because...

**Figure 5-26. Language to Use in Writing Conferences**