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A Book Review of *The Writing Strategies Book*

Dale Ioannides

Instructional coaches all over Georgia are collaborating with teachers to grow readers and writers. Jennifer Serravallo has written multiple books around the workshop model, with the intention of providing mini-lessons for any teacher in support of any curriculum. *The Reading Strategies Book* and *The Writing Strategies Book* are similarly written. This review is focused on the writing version.

Within the metro Atlanta area, many school systems have adopted workshop model curriculums such as Lucy Calkins' *Units of Study* or Fountas and Pinnell *Classroom*. These models use short, direct and intentional mini-lessons, allow time for students to practice together, and then give time for independent work. During independent time, the teacher is conferring with individual students and conducting guided reading/writing strategy groups.

Serravallo's mini-lessons follow this framework, but give them in a way that is organized by instructional goal, such as word choice. It is further organized by grade/writing level. This way of organization is intentional; writers need to think about spelling at more than one time in the writing process. Serravallo takes our favorite workshop gurus' resources, and makes them one pagers. Truly, this is a resource for anyone teaching students to read and write.

Are you a teacher looking to supplement your workshop lessons? Check. Are you an instructional coach looking for a resource that is research based and addresses standards for your teachers? Check. Are you a teacher who wants to try the workshop model and needs the streamlined best of the best? Check.