

Mentor Text – Strong Lead Strategies for Expository Text

Startling Fact: An amazing or surprising fact that the reader may not know. By using a startling fact to start a piece, the writer hopes to make the reader want to learn more.

Mentor Text:

“ Saturn is a giant planet, the second largest after Jupiter. If Saturn were hollow, about 750 planet Earths could fit inside. Like Jupiter, Saturn is made up mostly of gases. This makes it very light for its size. If you could find an ocean large enough, Saturn would float on water.”

Saturn by Simon Seymour

Action! - An event in progress: Describing an action can pique (catch) the interest of our reader.

Mentor Text:

“Sand, mud, and water sometimes bubble up during earthquakes, gushing water and soil like miniature mud volcanoes. These ‘sand boils’ are particularly dangerous to buildings. In places where water is close to the surface sandy layers turn into quick sand, and buildings tilt and tumble.”

Earthquakes by Simon Seymour

Definition: Tell it like it is!

Mentor Text:

“Frogs and toads are amphibians, which means they can live on land or in water. Frogs and toads have short, round bodies and large heads with bulging eyes. They have no tail, no fur, feathers or scales.”

