



You Have to Write

written by Janet S. Wong
illustrated by Teresa Flavin
Margaret K. McElderry Books

What an encouraging book for students who've felt that they have little to say in their own writing! This is a picture book written as poetry that really makes a point that all of us have something to say in our writing.

Self-Selected Reading

This will make a wonderful teacher read-aloud and a great addition to your book baskets!

Writing Block

The obvious use of this book is in the Writing Block for a number of reasons listed below:

Of course, the main point of this book is to encourage and motivate reluctant writers. So often, students really don't think they have anything to say worthy of putting on paper and worthy of someone's time spent reading it. We need to convince them otherwise. The illustrations throughout the book are sympathetic to the plight of all students who struggle with ideas and the process of writing.

There are some clever poems within the poem of this book that give excellent illustrations of how we connect with others and with life in general through our writing. When a topic is suggested, the writer attempts a good model for the reader.

There's a double page spread that ingeniously illustrates the writing process—students spreading their papers on the floor, plucking out the ones that they don't need and revising for better writing. The language of *weaving*, *dancing*, and *plucking* words as one writes gives

wonderful mental images of what we accomplish with our words on the page.

The poetic style of this book is free verse which helps to show students how to handle that form well.