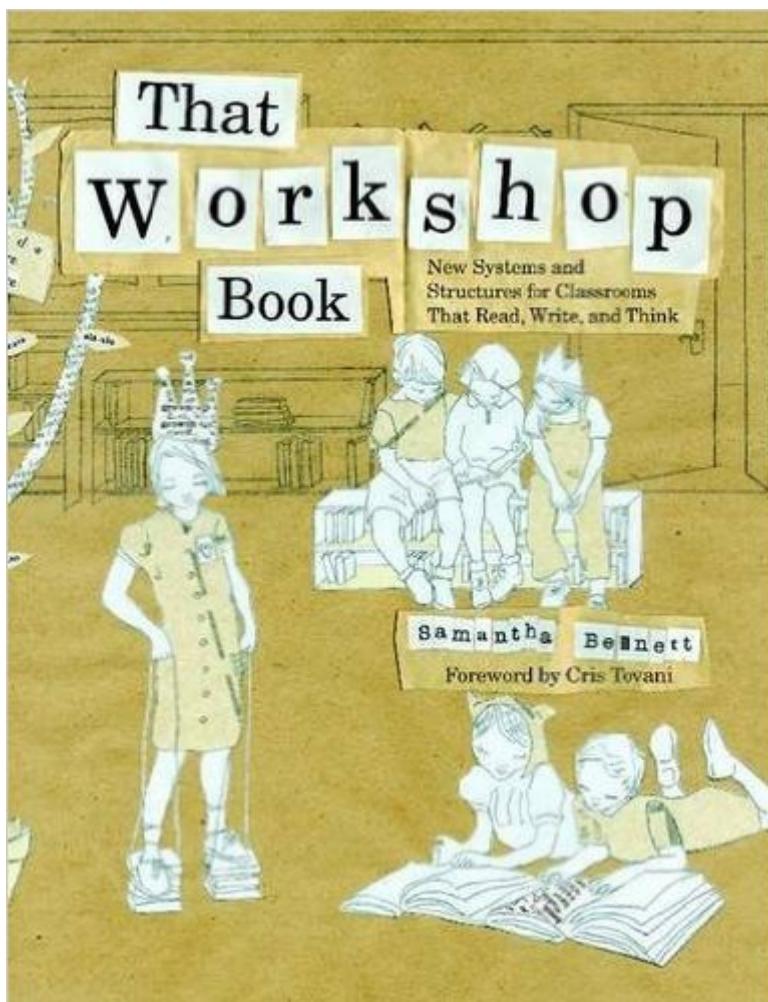


The book was found

# That Workshop Book: New Systems And Structures For Classrooms That Read, Write, And Think



## Synopsis

For teachers who feel alone with the challenges they face, this is the book for you. For instructional coaches who are stuck and unsure where to lead, this book will show the way. It will help you work through the tricky parts, negotiate the roadblocks and think through to the future. - Cris Tovani Twenty-five years after Donald Graves popularized workshop teaching, the concept is widely implemented but not always deeply understood. That Workshop Book changes all that. It shows a new generation of teachers how the systems, structures, routines, and rituals that support successful workshops combine with thinking, planning, and conferring to drive students' growth, inform assessment and instruction, and increase teacher's professional satisfaction. And it shows those already using the workshop how to increase its instructional power by seeing its big ideas and its component parts in fresh, dynamic ways. In That Workshop Book, Samantha Bennett, a veteran instructional coach, takes you on a tour of six classrooms from first grade through eighth grade to see the techniques and thought processes master teachers use to make their workshops work. In each class she offers tangible evidence of these teachers' practices, demonstrating how they listen to students and use that information to build lessons that propel children into deeper thinking. She documents these teachers' moves for you with: classroom observations in the form of coaching emails from Bennett to each with commentary that highlights the important practices seen in each workshop transcripts of minilessons, worktimes, and debriefs specific, explicit reflection by each teacher about their workshop examples of student work produced in the workshop and over time student reflections on their development as readers, writers, thinkers, and learners. You'll come to understand firsthand how the setup of the workshop allows students the breathing room to think deeply about ideas, topics, and resources. You'll also see how it creates a framework within which you can not only listen in as children express what they learn but also think deeply yourself about how best to use the information you gather for subsequent instruction. Bennett even demonstrates how the workshop can be flexible enough to fit any learning situation and how to solve common problems as they arise. Benefit from the wisdom of one of the country's foremost staff developers. Step inside workshop classrooms where teachers and students work side by side - where students develop literacy skills through a combination of doing what readers and writers do and purposeful, sensitive interactions with their teacher. Visit workshops where teachers learn about their students, use careful one-to-one assessment to inform their teaching, and reflect on their own practice as well. Then enter the best workshop classroom of all - the one you'll be ready and excited to launch when you read That Workshop Book.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 13 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 8

## **Customer Reviews**

Although this book chronicles the writing workshops of six teachers from first grade to eighth grade, it is of value to any workshop (or would-be workshop) teacher at any level. Author Samantha Bennett uses the same technique for each case study, but the variety is great and the teachers prove just how flexible a workshop approach can be by using it not only for writing, but for reading, discussion, and listening as well. Bennett writes: "Workshop is a structure, a routine, a ritual, and a system that helps teachers answer the question 'How do I know?'" She then explains why "teaching as listening" is more important than the traditional "teaching as talking." Using the "catch and release" metaphor from fishing, she details how good workshop teachers set a purpose in a mini-lesson, release the kids to read and discuss mentor texts while applying the mini-lesson, then "catch" them again by drawing them in for a debriefing. Yes, there are many variations, but all thrive best when the teacher has more than an hour to instruct (in fact, the shortest session among the six subject teachers is 60 minutes and the longest is 90 minutes). Like J.S. Bach's music, THAT WORKSHOP BOOK keeps coming at you in beautiful waves, all similarity and variation at once, all reinforcing as you see how kids blossom under the techniques demonstrated by the teachers. Bennett adds wise commentary and shares the source of each practice as well. It is instruction grounded in research at its best. If you teach workshop or are considering doing so, this will prove a valuable purchase.

I was first introduced to this book at a training. I found it so insightful because it really talks about the workshop model and how it applies to not only literacy but other subject areas also. Really - it is the best way for individuals to learn. The examples in the book were easy to follow and examples of quality teaching and learning experiences. We actually ended up using this book for a whole school staff development.

This book has been touted by my school district to be the model for our current reader's workshop philosophy. Because of this, I ordered it right away and was excited about receiving it. I have to say, I was a little disappointed by the lack of revolutionary ideas, although I am not sure that is the purpose of the book. I just thought the ideas presented were pretty basic and already considered best practices. The examples of reader's workshops in place were okay, but the situations were so specific that it was kind of difficult to make connections to the various teachers' classrooms. On a positive note, the book is a very easy read, as the language is relatable.

I found this book to be very helpful! Full of ideas and wonderful insight from someone who clearly knows her stuff!!! GET THIS BOOK!!

I was excited by one of the local school districts plans to use this system add a guide. This really adds to the classroom experience for the students.

If you want to create a writers workshop in your classroom, get this book!

Very helpful

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