Sentence.
A Period-to-Period Guide to Building Better Readers and Writers

by Geraldine Woods

Every English teacher has experienced it: students staring at an empty page, seemingly paralyzed by a writing assignment. When this happens, it may be time to back off from the Big Idea approach to the art of reading and writing and zero in on a single sentence.

In Sentence, Woods offers a complete guide to a sentence-level approach. Helping students recognize the techniques that make sentences great is the first step, and there are plenty of examples in the book from YA novels, TV shows, and song lyrics as well as the novels, poetry, and nonfiction pieces that form and expand the canon of middle and high school reading lists. Lesson plans include activities to introduce the featured element of style, questions to guide students in their analysis, and writing prompts and activities to spark students’ interest and creativity. With this Little-to-Big strategy, students move quickly from analysis of the words between two periods to the universe of ideas of which that sentence is a part. They may even be eager to write their own. The book can be easily adapted to online, in person, and hybrid class formats.

Praise for Sentence.
“With clarity her cause and passion her method, Geraldine Woods clarifies the workings of one of our most significant and old-time technologies: the sentence. That she curates from vivid contemporary sources will spark the stellar writer in her readers.” — Edie Meidav, Novelist and Associate Professor of English at University of Massachusetts, Amherst

About the Author
Geraldine Woods has taught English at every level from fifth grade through Advanced Placement, most recently at the Horace Mann School. She is the author of numerous nonfiction books for adults and children, including 25 Great Sentences. She lives in New York City.