



# Tapping Into Writing

with Ralph Fletcher

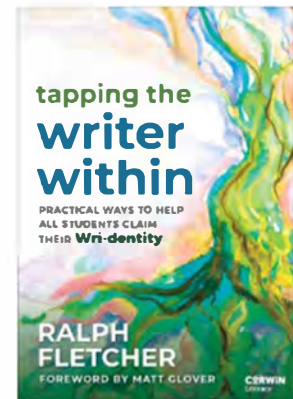


**April 15, 2026**

A newsletter—first issue! (Just think: this could be a collector’s item!) I’m planning to publish this newsletter once a month, or whenever I have news to share. The newsletter will be a way you can find out what I’m thinking, and what’s going on in my life. I think of the newsletter as a place for me to share practical tidbits and strategies that writing teachers might bring into the classroom.

## BOOKS FOR WRITING TEACHERS

My new book—*Tapping the Writer Within: Practical Ways to Help All Students Claim Their Wri-dentity*—was published in February. I combined the words **writing** and **identity** to forge a brand-new word: WRI-DENTITY. My book takes a close look at how we move from “I do” to “I am.” I’ve come to realize that I have been circling this idea (students’ identity-as-a-writer) in many of my other books.



*Tapping the Writer Within* looks at identity in the practical sense of the word, such as when a student says: “I’m a soccer player.” “I’m a big brother.” “I’m a Christian.” We want all our students to say: “I’m a reader.” In the same way, we want them to say with confidence: “I’m a writer.”

In the new book I offer practical structures, routines, and strategies to build that identity in our students. I include a chapter on how to deal with the “Never-Writer”—that kid who says: “I hate writing!” I suggest ways we can give a student like that a fresh start.

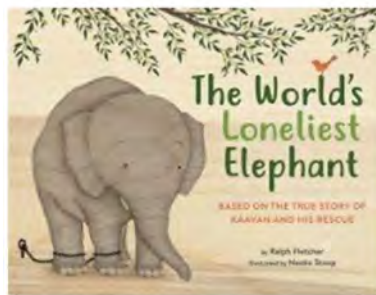
Stay tuned for more news about *Tapping the Writer Within*. In next month or so I’ll be hosting a book give-away. And I’m eager to hear from teachers who have read this book.

\* Use code SAVE20 on Corwin.com for a 20% discount. \*

## BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Here are a few highlights on some of my books for young readers:

**APRIL 28 IS FLYING SOLO DAY!!!** The entire Flying Solo book (well, 99.5% of it) takes place on April 28. Flying Solo Day will soon be a national holiday! Okay, well, maybe not, but it definitely SHOULD be, right?!

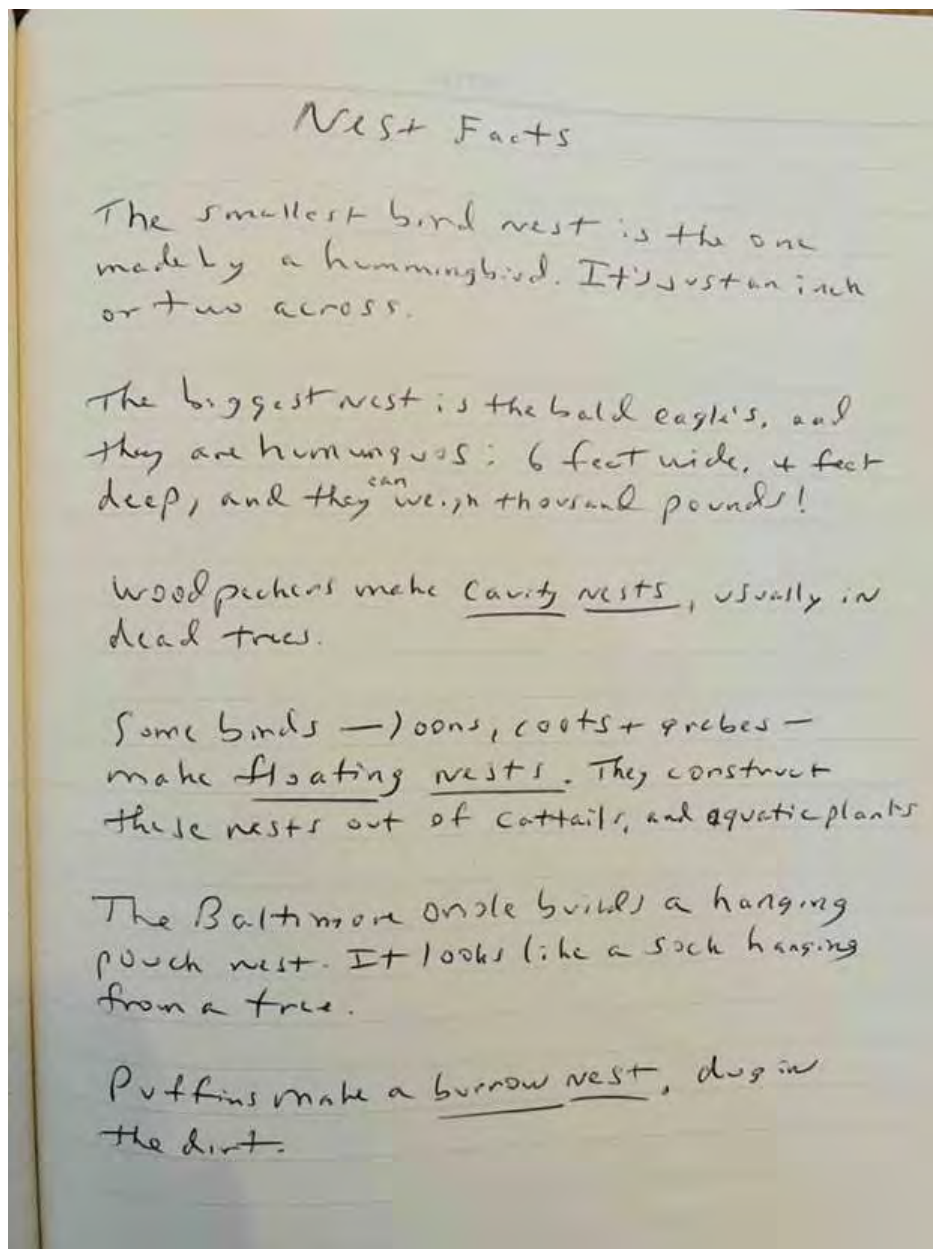


A teacher from Alabama contacted me with exciting news. Her fourth graders did a March Book Madness. Unbeknownst to me, my picture book (*The World's Loneliest Elephant: The True Story of Kavaan and his Rescue*) was entered into the competition. My book faced *My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother* by Patricia Palocco in the finals. I felt honored—honestly, LOVE that book. In fact, when my son Robert was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, he actually dressed up as the rotten redheaded brother. So I was astonished, gobsmacked, flabbergasted to learn that *The World's Loneliest Elephant* won! Go Kavaan!



## THE WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

My most important book is one that has never been published, and never will be. My writer's notebook feeds my other, published books. I use my writer's notebook to collect things anything that I find interesting, surprising, funny, weird or shocking. Exactly what things do I collect? Well, you name it: I collect quotes, sentences from books or articles, jokes, rock lyrics, facts, stats. I collect ideas for books or poems I might write. For instance, right now I'm playing around with an idea to write a picture book about bird nests. (Don't tell anybody!) Here's a page from my writer's notebook:



## PHOTOGRAPHY

In the past ten years I have become a serious photographer. My photos have appeared in the *New Hampshire Wildlife Journal*, the *California Reading Journal*, among others. I love taking pictures! And I've come to realize that capturing images gives me another way to tell stories. I specialize in nature photography—mostly birds. My passion for photography has taken me to many beautiful places all over the world.

Check out these two



Red-winged Blackbird



Bluejay Reflection

## KEEP READING and WRITING!

Well, that's it for now. Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think who might be interested. You can contact me directly at [figpudding@gmail.com](mailto:figpudding@gmail.com)

*Ralph Fletcher*