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The complete copy of this free download of the Novel Notebook, a companion publication to *Illuminating Literature: Characters in Crisis*, is published by Writing with Sharon Watson and is available at <https://writingwithsharonwatson.com/illuminating-literature-characters-in-crisis-gateway/>.

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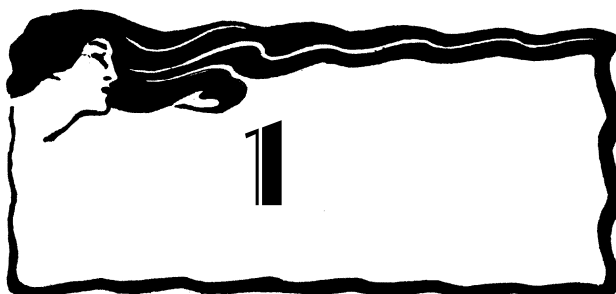
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"A Jury of Her Peers"

Did you know that while you were reading "A Jury of Her Peers," you were sitting on a jury? It's true. You were witnessing crimes and being asked to weigh in on the criminals' (characters') actions: domestic abuse, a murder, hiding evidence, and so on.

In a very real sense, you are the jury every time you read or view anything. You weigh good versus evil, the actions and choices of the participants, and so forth. In this trial metaphor, the defense attorney is the author, who is defending the actions of the main character. The author creates the character, molds her, and makes her choose certain actions. Then, by reason of her being the protagonist, we come to the story on her side as well. We are naturally empathetic toward her, but somewhere in our reading, we will be wise to step into the jury box and see her actions from all sides.

People who travel or who enter government buildings (like courthouses) have to go through metal detectors, and metal objects deemed dangerous are taken away. But when you enter the courthouse that is the story you are reading, take your most dangerous weapon—your brain—with you. Sit in the jury box. Evaluate the writing, the actions, the worldview, the author's conclusions about life and situations because, in reality, they are all on trial as you read.

So, member of the jury, be prepared to make some evaluations. Ready? Court is in session . . .

If Susan Glaspell were a **lawyer**, she'd be making some claims based on
"A Jury of Her Peers." What **claims** or **arguments**
is she making for the following characters?

The men,
or men in
general

The women,
or women in
general

Minnie Wright

How does Glaspell make Minnie Wright
an **empathetic character**?

Write at least 5 ways here:



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

How does Glaspell lead readers to feel
negatively about the men and their ideas?

How does she lead readers to feel
positively about Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters?





How do the **men** view the law?

How do the **women** view the law?

With which set of characters **do you agree?**

Do you believe these distinctions about the law
can be clearly **drawn on gender lines** in real life?

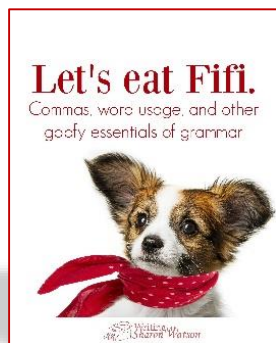


*What I want to remember
about this story.*



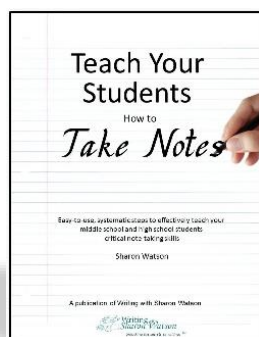
What I want to forget.

E-Books by Sharon Watson



23 fun grammar lessons

91 pages. 7th-12th grade.



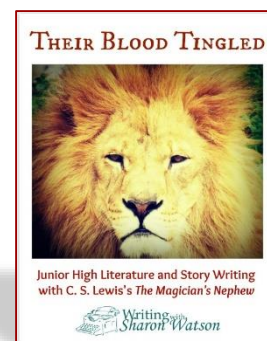
7 lessons + bonuses

33 pages. 7th-12th grade.



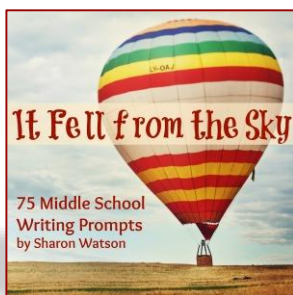
10 spot-on lessons

79 pages. 9th-12th grade.



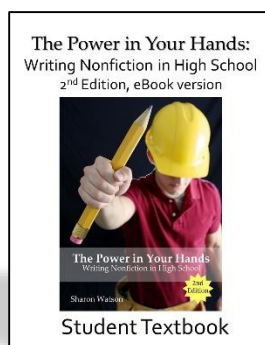
26 literature lessons

111 pages. 7th-8th grade

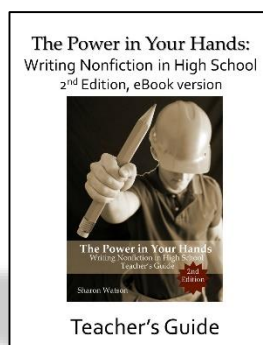


Energize and encourage your students' writing in as little as 10 minutes a day!

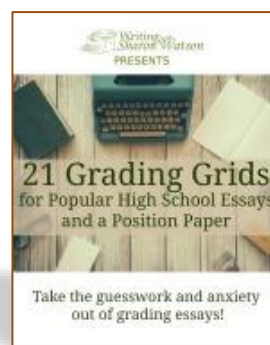
Our popular high school writing course in eBook form!



The full high school course
424 pages.



With Grading Grids
229 pages.



Make your grading life easier.
28 pages.

Meet the Author



Sharon Watson is the author of *Jump In*, Apologia's easy-to-use middle school writing curriculum featured in Cathy Duffy's *102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum*. She was forced to retire from homeschooling after 18 years when she ran out of her own children but her love of teaching permeates her writing and literature courses. Sharon's popular course *The Power in Your Hands: Writing Nonfiction in High School, 2nd Edition* is based on her sought-after writing classes and is the sequel to *Jump In*.

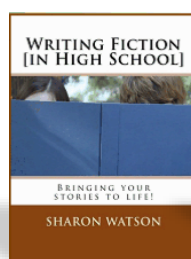
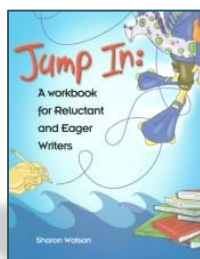
Let her practical textbooks **teach writing for you:**

Jump In, Apologia's popular middle school writing curriculum

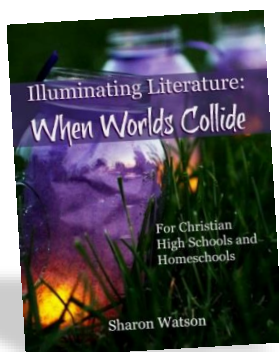
The Power in Your Hands: Writing Nonfiction in High School, 2nd Edition

Writing Fiction [in High School]

Unlock the Secrets of Compare-and-Contrast Writing (eBook)



Find free [Middle School Writing Prompts here](#) and [High School Writing Prompts here](#).



Teens enjoy the relaxed way they learn literature with Sharon's newest course *Illuminating Literature: When Worlds Collide*. This unstuffy course prepares your teens for college literature courses, equips them for the rest of their reading lives, and reveals the secret power of the author to influence their minds and hearts. [Download the first two chapters FREE here!](#)

Encourage your students to write again with these fun and engaging prompts, tutorials at [Sharon's Blog](#), her informative blog for homeschool moms. Free downloads and plenty of printables included.

Get three **FREE writing lessons** when you subscribe to [Writing with Sharon Watson](#).

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