

## Samples of “Hand” Writing

These student samples are from Nonfiction Mentor Texts: Teaching Informational Writing Through Children’s Literature, K-8, by Lynne R. Dorfman and Rose Cappelli. In Chapter 6, *Nonfiction Writing in the Real World*, the authors describe a lesson in which the students wrote about their favorite body part. The purpose of this lessons was to show the writers that they didn’t have to go far to write in detail about something they know a lot about. Both of these samples are on p. 150.

*The best part of me is my hands. My hands are small, but they do a vast amount of things. My pink-as-a-peach hands grip the smooth pages of a book. They write for me because I love to write. My hands, cold and tired, pull the covers up to my chin every chilly night. My hands, soft and warm, give massages to my family. My mom likes them the best! My hands love to curl up in a ball. My warmed, washed hands remember me sucking on them when I was a baby. Today they dream of marking papers as a teacher, my wish come true! My wonderful hands are a special gift.*

*Rebeka, Grade 3*

*The best part of me is my fingers. They are made of German skin. My fingers have a little hair on them. They get lots of cuts. My fingers love to hold my pencil and write all day. They love writing the answers to math questions with a pencil. My fingers remember gripping the ball I threw for the first time. After that I felt so good. My fingers wish to be playing Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite in front of a huge audience. When I was done they would clap so loud it would hurt my ears. The best part of me is my fingers.*

*Matthew, Grade 2*