From My Bookshelf: Suggested Texts on Reading, Writing & the Creative Process

Rebecca McClanahan

(NOTE: Some of these titles are currently out of print, but are available from alternate sources. For resources on creative/literary nonfiction, please consult my website at www.mcclanmuse.com)

Kim Addonizio & Dorianne Laux, The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry

Olivia Bertagnolli & Jeff Rackham, eds., Creativity and the Writing Process

Carol Bly, The Passionate, Accurate Story: Making Your Heart's Truth into Literature,

Dorothea Brande, Becoming a Writer

Janet Burroway, Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft

Stephen Corey and Warren Slesinger, eds., Spreading the Word: Editors on Poetry

Phillip Dacey and David Jauss, eds. Strong Measures: An Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms

Annie Dillard, The Writing Life

Bonnie Friedman, Writing Past Dark: Envy, Fear, Distraction, and Other Dilemmas in the Writer's Life

John Gardner, The Art of Fiction; Notes on Craft for Young Writers

Robin Hemley, Turning Life into Fiction

Rust Hills, Writing in General and the Short Story in Particular

Jane Hirschfield, Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry

Richard Hugo, The Triggering Town

X. J. Kennedy, An Introduction to Poetry

Kenneth Koch & Kate Farrell, Sleeping on the Wing: An Anthology of Modern Poetry With Essays on Reading and Writing

Kenneth Koch, Making Your Own Days: The Pleasures of Reading and Writing Poetry

Herbert Kohl, How to Read Contemporary Poems and Make Them a Part of Your Life.

Milan Kundera, The Art of the Novel

Rollo May, The Courage to Create

Rebecca McClanahan, Word Painting: A Guide to Writing More Descriptively and Write Your Heart Out

Flannery O'Connor, The Habit of Being (letters)

Oliver, Mary, A Poetry Handbook,
Tillie Olsen, Silences

Ron Padgett, ed., Handbook of Poetic Forms

Ezra Pound, ABC of Reading

Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters on Cezanne and Letters to a Young Poet

Eve Shelnutt, The Writing Room: Keys to the Craft of Fiction and Poetry

Stephen Spender, The Making of a Poem

William Stafford, You Must Revise Your Life

Janet Sternburg, ed., The Writer on Her Work

Anne Truitt, Prospect: The Journal of an Artist

Alberta T. Turner, ed., 50 Contemporary Poets: The Creative Process and To Make a Poem, 1982.

Eudora Welty, One Writer's Beginnings

Jeanette Winterson, Art Objects: Essays on Ecstasy and Effrontery