

PICTURE BOOKS
for TEACHING the

Six Traits



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PICTURE BOOKS for TEACHING the Six Traits

When introducing the 6 Traits to students, many teachers do so by reading mentor text. If you select a text that exemplifies the trait(s), students can learn what it means and how to accomplish similar skills within their own writing. The most popular type of mentor text used is a children's book. The text is short (which is important for a mini-lesson) and engaging for students—even those in middle school and high school!

This download includes a list of grade-specific suggested titles. Most teachers read a different book to represent each trait. But, if you are looking for a single title that demonstrates all 6 Traits, look for the * at the end of each title/author. These are texts that would work for all 6 Traits.

IN THIS DOWNLOAD YOU'LL FIND:

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Page 5 | List for Grades 6-12



webPD
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Online PD available

Visit Smekens webPD to view these online Writing PD videos:

Recognizing the 6 Traits
(K-2, 3-5, 6-12)

Rolling Out the Trait Language
to Students (K-1, 2-5, 6-12)



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GRADES K-1

Ideas



KINDERGARTEN

David's Drawings, Cathryn Falwell
Good Dog, Carl, Alexandra Day

GRADE 1

This is My Hair, Todd Parr (out of print)
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, Mem Fox

Organization



KINDERGARTEN

One Duck Stuck, Phyllis Root
The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle

GRADE 1

Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild! Mem Fox *
Scaredy Squirrel, Mélanie Watt *

Voice



KINDERGARTEN

The Feelings Book, Todd Parr
Today I Feel Silly, Jamie Lee Curtis

GRADE 1

The Monster at the End of this Book, Jon Stone *
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! Mo Willems

Word Choice



KINDERGARTEN

Thesaurus Rex, Laya Steinberg *
How Things Work in the House, Lisa Campbell Ernst

GRADE 1

Max's Words, Kate Banks
Fancy Nancy, Jane O'Connor *

Sentence Fluency



KINDERGARTEN

The Magic Hat, Mem Fox

GRADE 1

The Napping House, Audrey Wood *

Conventions



KINDERGARTEN

CDB, William Steig

GRADE 1

Yo! Yes? Christopher Raschka
Animals Black and White, Phyllis Limbacher Tildes *



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Use this code: **6TRAITS15**

GRADES 2-5

Ideas



GRADES 2-3

Pictures from our Vacation, Lynne Rae Perkins
Fireflies! Julie Brinckloe *

GRADES 4-5

Saturdays and Teacakes, Lester Laminack *
Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street, Roni Schotter

Organization



GRADES 2-3

When Sophie Gets Angry, Molly Bang *
Roller Coaster, Marla Frazee

GRADES 4-5

Probuditi!, Chris Van Allsburg
Blackout, John Rocco

Voice



GRADES 2-3

Hattie the Bad, Jane Devlin
The Recess Queen, Alexis O'Neill *

GRADES 4-5

How Are You Peeling? Saxton Freymann
Arnie the Doughnut, Laurie Keller

Word Choice



GRADES 2-3

Pajama Day, Lynn Plourde * (out of print)
I'm Dirty, Kate & Jim McMullan

GRADES 4-5

Walter the Farting Dog, William Kotzwinkle
 & Glenn Murray
Verdi, Janell Cannon

Sentence Fluency



GRADES 2-3

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp,
 Carol Diggory Shields *
Night in the Country, Cynthia Rylant

GRADES 4-5

Come On, Rain! Karen Hesse *
Dogteam, Gary Paulsen

Conventions



GRADES 2-3

Punctuation Takes a Vacation, Robin Pulver
Has Anyone Seen My Emily Greene? Norma Fox Mazer

GRADES 4-5

Polar Express, Chris Van Allsburg *
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type, Doreen Cronin *



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GRADES 6-12

Ideas



PICTURE BOOKS

The Table Where Rich People Sit, Byrd Baylor

The Other Side, Jacqueline Woodson *

OTHER MENTOR TEXT

“American Pepper,” an urban legend *

Detailed novel excerpt, or a Prologue

Voice



PICTURE BOOKS

The Harmonica, Tony Johnston *

Voices in the Park, Anthony Browne

OTHER MENTOR TEXT

An email exchange with voice revealed in emoticons

Greeting cards with the same theme, different voice

Sentence Fluency



PICTURE BOOKS

Mr. George Baker, Amy Hest

The Wall, Eve Bunting *

OTHER MENTOR TEXT

A poem with figurative language

Song lyrics with figurative language

Organization



PICTURE BOOKS

The Relatives Came, Cynthia Rylant *

Smoky Night, Eve Bunting *

OTHER MENTOR TEXT

“The Carpet Fitter,” an urban legend *

An excerpt with several transition words/phrases

Word Choice



PICTURE BOOKS

Fox, Margaret Wild *

Piggie Pie! Margie Palatini

OTHER MENTOR TEXT

A poem with precise language

Article on a specialized subject

Conventions



PICTURE BOOKS

Eats, Shoots & Leaves (commas), Lynne Truss

Girl's Like Spaghetti (apostrophes), Lynne Truss

Twenty-Odd Ducks (20 different punctuation marks),
Lynne Truss

OTHER MENTOR TEXT

Incoherent text message (abbreviations,
no punctuation, etc.)

Same message written to different audiences



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