PICTURE BOOKS for TEACHING the Six Traits

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When introducing the 6 Traits to students, many teachers read aloud a text that exemplifies the trait(s). This is the notion of mentor text. Students learn the evidence of the trait from mentors and how to imitate it within their own writings. Such mentor text often includes picture books. The text is short (which is important for a mini-lesson) and engaging for students—even those in middle school and high school! This document includes a list of grade-specific suggested titles.

Most teachers read a different book to represent each trait. However, rereading the same text during each trait introduction emphasizes that all traits should be present within a single writing. Look for the * at the end of each title/author listed for suggested texts that include strong evidence of all 6 Traits.

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- **Page 3** | Picture Books for Grades K-1
- **Page 4** | Picture Books for Grades 2-5
- **Page 5** | Picture Books for Grades 6-12
- **Page 6** | Other Texts for Grades 6-12

Online PD available @ Access.SmekensEducation.com

*Recognizing the 6 Traits*
K-2 video | 3-5 video | 6-12 video

*Rolling Out the Trait Language to Students*
K-1 video | 2-5 video | 6-12 video
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| **KINDERGARTEN**  
*David’s Drawings*, Cathryn Falwell  
*Good Dog, Carl*, Alexandra Day | **KINDERGARTEN**  
*Today is Monday*, Eric Carle  
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, Eric Carle |
| **GRADE 1**  
*Love the World*, Todd Parr  
*Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, Mem Fox* | **GRADE 1**  
*Harriet, You’ll Drive Me Wild!*, Mem Fox*  
*Scaredy Squirrel*, Mélanie Watt* |
| **Voice** | **Word Choice** |
| **KINDERGARTEN**  
*The Feelings Book*, Todd Parr  
*My Crayons Talk*, Patricia Hubbard  
*Today I Feel Silly*, Jamie Lee Curtis | **KINDERGARTEN**  
*Hooray for Fish*, Lucy Cousins  
*How Things Work in the House*, Lisa Campbell Ernst |
| **GRADE 1**  
*Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, Mo Willems  
*The Monster at the End of this Book*, Jon Stone*  
*My Many Colored Days*, Dr. Seuss | **GRADE 1**  
*Fancy Nancy*, Jane O’Connor*  
*Max’s Words*, Kate Banks  
*The Word Collector*, Peter H. Reynolds |
| **Sentence Fluency** | **Conventions** |
| **KINDERGARTEN**  
*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, Bill Martin, Jr. & John Archambault | **KINDERGARTEN**  
*CDB*, William Steig |
| **GRADE 1**  
*The Napping House*, Audrey Wood* | **GRADE 1**  
*Animals Black and White*, Phyllis Limbacher Tildes*  
*Yo! Yes?*, Chris Raschka |
Grades 2-5

**Ideas**

**GRades 2-3**
- *Fireflies!*, Julie Brinckloe*
- *Pictures from our Vacation*, Lynne Rae Perkins*

**GRades 4-5**
- *One Day, The End*, Rebecca Kai Dotlich
- *Saturdays and Teacakes*, Lester Laminack*
- *Shark Nate-O*, Tara Luebbe & Becky Cattie*

**Organization**

**GRades 2-3**
- *Roller Coaster*, Marla Frazee*
- *When Sophie Gets Angry*, Molly Bang*

**GRades 4-5**
- *Blackout*, John Rocco
- *Diary of a Worm*, Doreen Cronin*

**Voice**

**GRades 2-3**
- *Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse*, Kevin Henkes*
- *The Recess Queen*, Alexis O’Neill*

**GRades 4-5**
- *Arnie the Doughnut*, Laurie Keller*
- *How Are You Peeling?*, Saxton Freymann

**Word Choice**

**GRades 2-3**
- *I’m Dirty*, Kate & Jim McMullan
- *Outfoxed*, Mike Twohy

**GRades 4-5**
- *Thesaurus Rex*, Laya Steinberg
- *Walter the Farting Dog*, William Kotzwinkle & Glenn Murray*

**Sentence Fluency**

**GRades 2-3**
- *Roller Coaster*, Marla Frazee*
- *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp*, Carol Diggory Shields*

**GRades 4-5**
- *Come On, Rain!*, Karen Hesse*
- *Dogteam*, Gary Paulsen

**Conventions**

**GRades 2-3**
- *Punctuation Takes a Vacation*, Robin Pulver
- *Scaredy Squirrel*, Mélanie Watt*

**GRades 4-5**
- *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, Doreen Cronin*
- *The Polar Express*, Chris Van Allsburg *
Grades 6-12

**Ideas**

**GRADES 6-8**
- *The Other Side*, Jacqueline Woodson*
- *What Do You Do With an Idea?*, Kobi Yamada

**GRADES 9-12**
- *The Table Where Rich People Sit*, Byrd Baylor
- *This Plus That*, Amy Krouse Rosenthal

**Organization**

**GRADES 6-8**
- *The Relatives Came*, Cynthia Rylant*
- *The Paperboy*, Dav Pilkey

**GRADES 9-12**
- *An Angel for Solomon Singer*, Cynthia Rylant*
- *Smoky Night*, Eve Bunting*

**Voice**

**GRADES 6-8**
- *Lon Po Po*, Ed Young
- *Voices in the Park*, Anthony Browne*

**GRADES 9-12**
- *The Harmonica*, Tony Johnston*
- *The Rough-Face Girl*, Rafe Martin

**Word Choice**

**GRADES 6-8**
- *Piggie Pie!* Margie Palatini*

**GRADES 9-12**
- *Fox*, Margaret Wild*
- *Mudball*, Matt Tavares*

**Sentence Fluency**

**GRADES 6-8**
- *Mr. George Baker*, Amy Hest
- *Owl Moon*, Jane Yolen*
- *Casey at the Bat*, Christopher Bing

**GRADES 9-12**
- *The Wall*, Eve Bunting*
- *Train to Somewhere*, Eve Bunting

**Conventions**

**GRADES 6-8**
- *Eats, Shoots & Leave* (commas), Lynne Truss
- *Girl’s Like Spaghetti* (apostrophes), Lynne Truss

**GRADES 9-12**
- *Twenty-Odd Ducks* (20 different marks), Lynne Truss
- *Scaredy Squirrel*, Mélanie Watt*
Other texts for Grades 6-12

**Ideas**

**URBAN LEGEND**
“American Pepper,” an urban legend that demonstrates how the writer can control the description, forcing the audience to think what he wants them to believe (e.g., the ashes are pepper)

**NOVEL EXCERPT**
A detailed novel excerpt that conveys a key point

**PROLOGUE**
A prologue that summarizes the essential problem

**Organization**

**URBAN LEGEND**
“The Carpet Fitter,” an urban legend that demonstrates how the order of information in a text is intentional (e.g., withholding the detail about the missing bird until the end)

**TEXT/EXCERPT**
Any authentic text/excerpt that includes several transition words/phrases to connect ideas

**Voice**

**EMAIL**
An email exchange that conveys strong emotions through various emojis

**GREETING CARDS**
Greeting cards with the same message that convey different moods/attitudes.
- I’m sorry (sincere)
- I’m sorry (extreme remorse)
- I’m sorry (get over it)

**Word Choice**

**POEM**
A poem that includes powerful and vivid description

**ARTICLE**
An article on a specialized subject that includes technical language

**Sentence Fluency**

**POEM**
A poem that includes rhythm, pacing, &/or figurative language

**SONG LYRICS**
Song lyrics that include rhythm, pacing, &/or figurative language

**Conventions**

**TEXT MESSAGE**
Incoherent text message (e.g., acronyms, no punctuation, wrong words used/replaced with auto correct, etc.)

**MESSAGES**
Two messages that use the same words, but punctuation application changes the meaning (e.g., two messages at the back of Twenty-Odd Ducks)