

PICTURE BOOKS for TEACHING the

Six Traits



BY KRISTINA SMEKENS

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PICTURE BOOKS for TEACHING the *Six Traits*

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

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

Grades K-1

Ideas



KINDERGARTEN

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

GRADE 1

Love the World, Todd Parr
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, Mem Fox *

Organization



KINDERGARTEN

Today is Monday, Eric Carle
The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle
Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild!, Mem Fox
Scaredy Squirrel, Mélanie Watt*

GRADE 1

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

Voice



KINDERGARTEN

The Feelings Book, Todd Parr
My Crayons Talk, Patricia Hubbard
Today I Feel Silly, Jamie Lee Curtis

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

Word Choice



KINDERGARTEN

Hooray for Fish!, Lucy Cousins
How Things Work in the House, Lisa Campbell Ernst

GRADE 1

Fancy Nancy, Jane O'Connor*
Max's Words, Kate Banks
The Word Collector, Peter H. Reynolds

Sentence Fluency



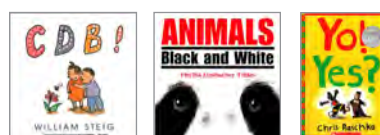
KINDERGARTEN

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Bill Martin, Jr. & John Archambault

GRADE 1

The Napping House, Audrey Wood*

Conventions



KINDERGARTEN

CDB, William Steig

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*

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

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

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*

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*

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



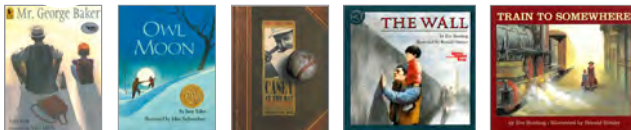
GRADES 6-8

Hoop Kings, Charles R. Smith Jr.
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 & Leaves (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

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)*

Sentence Fluency

POEM

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

SONG LYRICS

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

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

Word Choice

POEM

A poem that includes powerful and vivid description

ARTICLE

An article on a specialized subject that includes technical 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*)