

## 6 Trait Mini-Lessons - Sentence Fluency

### *Sentences:*

- Complete thoughts (noun and verb)
- Sentence makes sense (word order)
  - *Sentence Diagramming and Sentence Combining, Oh My!* p. 204-205 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- You can read back what you wrote
- Recognizing fragments (incomplete thoughts)
  - Insert words to complete the thought
  - *Sentences and Fragments Bee* p. 203 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Fixing run-on sentences
  - Insert punctuation to separate thoughts
  - *Run-Ons* p. 202 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Wrapping text/words onto the next line

### *Sentence Variety:*

- Varying sentence types
  - Declarative (.)
  - Interrogative (?)
  - Exclamatory (!)
  - *Using Punctuation For Emphasis* p. 205-207 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Varying sentence structures
  - Simple
  - Compound
  - Complex
  - Compound-complex
  - Intentional fragment
  - *End With a Noun* p. 201 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
  - *Which is Better?* p. 207 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Varying sentence beginnings
  - *Find a New Way to Begin* p. 226 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham

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- Lots of Color p. 227 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Box it Up p. 227 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Mix it Up p. 228 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Off to a Good Start p. 202 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Varying sentence length for impact
  - Long sentences for slower thoughts/actions
  - Short sentences for fast thoughts/actions
  - Standing Sentences p. 229 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
  - Draw Along p. 230 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
  - Grandma Is p. 231 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
  - Finding Sentences That Work p. 231 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
  - Slinky City p. 200-201 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
  - Sentence Stretching p. 202 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
  - Picture Your Sentence p. 203 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
  - Long and Short to Make It Interesting p. 208 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
  - Pass It On p. 208-209 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
  - Lean and Mean p. 209 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham

### *Establishing Flow, Rhythm, and Cadence:*

- Hearing Punctuation - use letters or numbers followed by punctuation to demonstrate how punctuation sounds. Idea by Kristina Smekens
  - ABC! DE. FGH? I, JK.  
3 6 9! 3 2? 4, 5 6.
- Reading Sentences Aloud to Check How They Sound
  - Sentence Sense p. 233-234 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
  - Bubble Talk p. 234 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
  - Sentence Scavengers p. 234 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
  - Reading Aloud to Yourself p. 198-199 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Figurative language
  - Onomatopoeia (sound effect words)

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- Alliteration
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Personification
- Idioms
- Hyperboles
- Using Fragments to Add Rhythm p. 196-198 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Twisted Twister p. 198 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- I've Got Rhythm p. 199 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Music to Our Ears p. 199 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Choral Reading p. 199 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Creative phrasing
- Parallel structure ("We ate red apples, green grapes, and tasty bananas." Vs. "We ate red apples, grapes that are green and bananas that tasted good.")