

6 Trait Mini-Lessons – Word Choice

Collecting Words:

- Tune in to interesting words in reading
 - What's In a Word? p. 190-191 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Create word banks for writing topics
- List favorite words
 - Top Ten Words p. 191-192 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
 - Word Fun p. 192 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
 - And the Winner Is... p. 192 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Brainstorm alternative words (overused words, retired words, etc.)
 - Delightful Descriptions p. 195-196 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Student created thesaurus
- My words book
- Feeling words
 - Words With Color p. 197 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Color Words
- Words, Words Everywhere p. 167 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham

Precise Language:

- Specific, exact nouns
 - Suitcase Mystery p. 193-194 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Proper nouns
- Varied word choice
- Notice subtle shades of meaning (synonyms)
- Big words
- Academic Vocabulary specific to content/subject
- Vocabulary appropriate for audience
- Accurate word choice
 - Painting a Picture With Words p. 159-162 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Verbs

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- Shades of Words - Use boxes of Crayons (8 count and 64 count) and ask students to compare. Different colors in the two boxes? NO! Different shade of the same colors! Much as we look for just the right shade of pink for cotton candy, we need to look for the right shade of a word when we write. Find and chart the crayon colors to find "better words" for pink. Idea by Kristina Smekens
 - Strong action verbs
 - Vivid Verbs p. 196 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
 - Use of adverbs
 - Here's to Adverbs - or Not! p. 167 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - Active voice
 - Active and Passive Verbs p. 165-166 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Authentic Language
 - Making it Sound Authentic p. 168 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - The Bad Writing Contest p. 169 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - Remember When? p. 169 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - What's in a Word? p. 170 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - Is THAT English? p. 170 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Connotations
 - The Game of Connotations p. 164-165 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham

Description:

- Incorporate adjectives
- Sensory descriptions
- Imagery
- Show, don't tell
- Comparisons (looks like...)
- Colorful words and phrases
 - Finding Key Words and Phrases In Captivating Texts p. 171 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - Expanding Small Phrases to Bigger Ones p. 172 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham

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- Rice Cakes or Salsa? p. 172 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Yummy Words p. 172 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Shaping Up p. 173 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
- Sharpening descriptive powers
 - The More Detail, the Better p. 162 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - Is More Always Better? p. 162 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - Describe I, Then Build It p. 163 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham
 - Descriptive Limits p. 163 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up by Ruth Culham

Unique Word Choice:

- Onomatopoeia - sound effect words
 - Onomatopoeia: More Than Just a Funny Name p. 198-199 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Made-up words
- Alliteration
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Personification
- Idioms
 - Idiom of the Week p. 198 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham
- Hyperboles - extreme exaggeration to make a point (I told you a million times...)
- Interjections
 - Interjections! p. 198 6+1 Traits of Writing: the Complete Guide for the Primary Grades by Ruth Culham