

TRAITS FOR GOOD WRITING

Can you do this for readers?

Ideas ~

- * Think up an interesting purpose, details, and message.

Organization ~

- * Give your ideas a good beginning, middle, and end, going from one to the other easily.

Voice ~

- * Write so your words sound like you, your ideas and feelings, and let readers really understand you.

Word Choice ~

- * Search for interesting words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) that make pictures in readers' minds.

Sentence Fluency ~

- * Shape sentences differently, some short and some long.

Conventions ~

- * Work on capitals, commas, and periods. Spell your best.

Presentation ~

- * Make it look good!

THINK TWICE BEFORE...

starting with these: and, but, because.

BETTER BEGINNINGS

Try starting your writing with...

- A simile ~ "She was as smart as..."
- A metaphor ~ "He was a clever monkey..."
- Alliteration ~ "A stunning student..."
- An idiom ~ "It was a snap to..."
- A question ~ "Have you ever wondered..."
- A belief ~ "I have always felt sure that..."
- A single word ~ "Brains. That's all I.."
- A good fact ~ "The encyclopedia says..."
- A sound ~ "Ka-blam!..."
- A quote ~ "Martin Luther King said that..."

TRANSITIONS

Try these to organize your writing!

- * **First Paragraph ~**
First, In the beginning, To start,
- * **Middle Paragraphs ~**
Also, Additionally, Furthermore, Then,
- * **Last Paragraph ~**
Summing it up, In conclusion, Ultimately,

SPELLING WORDS

- A ~ about, actually, again, a lot, almost, always, another, anyone
- B ~ basically, beautiful, because, before, believe, buy, by
- C ~ can't, character, coming, communicate, could, country
- D ~ described, determined, didn't, doctor, doesn't, don't
- E ~ enough, especially, everybody, everything, except, exactly
- F ~ favorite, February, first, foolish, forty, furious, friend
- G ~ getting, giant, girl, government, guaranteed, guess,
- H ~ half, having, hear, heard, hole, honor, horror, hour
- I ~ I'm, impossible, instead, into, it's, its
- L ~ language, laugh, let's, literature
- M ~ making, meant, minute, myself
- N ~ natural, necessary, new, no, none
- O ~ obey, off, offer, often, once, one, only, our, own, owner
- P ~ packet, people, piece, private, probably, prove, purpose
- R ~ raise, read, ready, really, rely, require, resist, right
- S ~ said, separate, since, school, something, sometimes, success
- T ~ terrible, that's, their, then, there, they, they're, thought, threw, through, to, tonight, too, trouble, truly, Tuesday, two
- U ~ unaware, unfortunate, until, unusual, used, usually
- V ~ vacuum, vegetable, very, violence, vocabulary, volunteer
- W ~ wear, weather, Wednesday, we're, went, were, what, when, where, whether, who, whole, with, won, won't, wouldn't, write
- Y ~ yawn, yellow, yesterday, young, your, you're, yummy, youth



CONJUNCTIONS ~

These hold sentences together like glue!

and, or, but, for

because, when, if, then

COPS

COPS to watch your sentences!

- C ~ capitals
- O ~ organization
- P ~ punctuation
- S ~ spelling

TRICK

A TRICK to answer questions!

- T ~ topic sentence
- R ~ references
- I ~ important details
- C ~ conclusion
- K ~ Show your knowledge!

VIVID WORDS

Can you use these?

- Sad** ~ depressed, gloomy, miserable, unhappy, mournful
- Happy** ~ glad, jovial, joyful, cheerful, delighted
- Mad** ~ furious, enraged, livid, fuming, irate
- Good** ~ awesome, cool, wonderful, fantastic, excellent
- Nice** ~ pleasant, delightful, kind, thoughtful, charming
- Beautiful** ~ lovely, glamorous, attractive, elegant, gorgeous
- Big** ~ huge, gigantic, enormous, massive, immense
- Walk** ~ strut, hobble, march, plod, stroll
- Run** ~ rush, bolt, jog, dash, scurry
- Say** ~ reply, state, exclaim, respond, remark
- Laugh** ~ cackle, chuckle, giggle, snicker, chortle
- Very** ~ truly, surely, especially, chiefly, incredibly
- Like** ~ enjoy, adore, admire, appreciate, love

READING VOCABULARY

1. **adjective** ~ word describing a noun.
2. **adverb** ~ word that describes verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs
3. **antonym** ~ word with the opposite meaning of another word
4. **author's purpose** ~ reason for writing
5. **cause** ~ reason that something happens
6. **cause and effect** ~ how one thing leads to another
7. **character** ~ person (or anything that acts like a person) in a story
8. **comparison** ~ way in which two things are the same
9. **conflict** ~ main problem in a story
10. **conjunction** ~ word that connects two parts of a sentence
11. **context clue** ~ hint from the words around a word
12. **contrast** ~ way in which two things are different
13. **detail** ~ information about the main idea
14. **drawing a conclusion** ~ putting inferences together to understand
15. **effect** ~ what the cause makes happen
16. **fact** ~ claim that is always true and can be proven true
17. **figurative language** ~ words specially used to be more descriptive
18. **graphic organizer** ~ drawings that help organize information
19. **graphic** ~ visual aid to help you understand the words
20. **heading** ~ bold or large words starting a new section, explaining it
21. **homograph** ~ words spelled alike but with different meanings
22. **homophones** ~ like-sounding words but different meaning and spelling
23. **idiom** ~ a phrase that doesn't make sense, yet people understand it
24. **inference** ~ ideas or clues to help you figure out what is happening
25. **informational report** ~ a report with facts and details about a topic
26. **main idea** ~ the topic of a passage
27. **metaphor** ~ comparison between two different things
28. **narrative** ~ story
29. **noun** ~ person, place, or thing
30. **opinion** ~ belief that cannot be proven true for everyone at all times
31. **personification** ~ animal or object that behaves like a person
32. **plot** ~ **events** in a story, including conflict and resolution
33. **prediction** ~ guess about what may happen, based on text clues
34. **prefix** ~ group of letters before a root word
35. **pronoun** ~ takes the place of a noun
36. **resolution** ~ story ending, when the conflict is over
37. **response** ~ written opinion about what is read, supported by text
38. **sequence** ~ order in which things happen
39. **setting** ~ time and place in which the story happens
40. **simile** ~ compares two things, using the words "like" or "as"
41. **skim and scan** ~ quickly look through a passage for a key word
42. **speaker** ~ person who is telling the story
43. **suffix** ~ group of letters after a root word
44. **summarize** ~ state the main idea and important details of a selection
45. **synonym** ~ word with the same or similar meaning as another word
46. **verb tense** ~ verb form, depending on time (past, present, or future)
47. **theme** ~ main lesson of a selection
48. **web** ~ graphic with main topic in the center and details around it

READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

Before, during, and after reading...

Think about the reading

- * Beginning, middle, end.
- * Characters, setting, plot.
- * Main idea, details, vocabulary.

Make connections

- * Text to self.
- * Text to world.
- * Text to text.

Visualize

- * Take pictures of the selection.
- * Tape-record it in your mind.
- * Show a movie in your mind.

Ask questions

- * I wonder ____ ?
- * What if ____ ?
- * How's come ____ ?

Infer

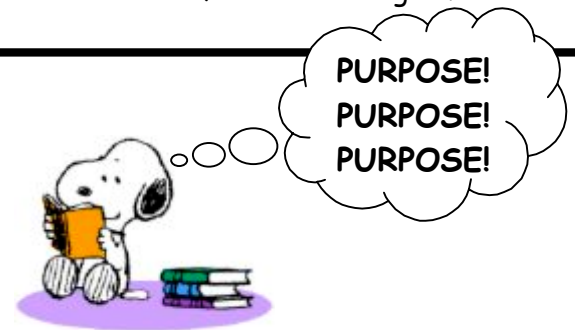
- * Make predictions or conclusions.
- * Use the reading for support.
- * Use examples from your life.

Determine importance

- * What is the main idea?
- * What are the details?
- * What do I want to learn?

Watch what you are doing

- * Monitor for when you get lost.
- * Reread.
- * Use one of these strategies.



READING WORD STRATEGIES

When stuck on word, ask yourself...

- * Does this sound like good language?
- * Do I need to sound out the word?
- * Do other words give me clues?
- * Do I need to go slow and reread?
- * What is happening here?
- * What have I read before like this?
- * What do I know about this?
- * What is the author telling me?