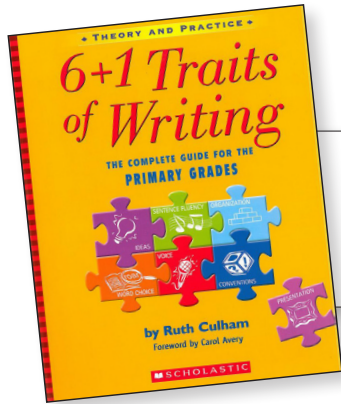


# PHASE 3

Introduce the 6 Traits of Writing • 6-12 days





# 6-Trait Songs

Original song lyrics written by Ruth Culham and published in *6+1 Traits of Writing: The Complete Guide for the Primary Grades*

## THE IDEAS SONG

(sing to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Write, write, write your thoughts.  
Make your ideas clear.  
Tell the reader what you know  
and what you hold most dear.

## THE ORGANIZATION SONG

(sing to "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Writing has a good beginning,  
strong conclusion,  
and builds bridges.  
Writing has a good beginning.  
The order just makes sense.

## THE VOICE SONG

(sing to "If You're Happy & You Know It")

If you're happy and you know it, that's your voice.  
If you're thoughtful and you know it, that's your voice.  
If you're spunky, and you know it,  
then your words will surely show it.  
If you're happy and you know it, that's your voice.

## THE WORD CHOICE SONG

(sing to "Ring Around the Rosie")

Writing with your best words—  
Finding lots of new words—  
Sparkle! Dazzle!  
The words stand out.

## THE SENTENCE FLUENCY SONG

(sing to "Frere Jacques")

Sentence fluency.  
Sentence fluency.  
The writing flows.  
The writing flows.  
Sentences are longer.  
Sentences are shorter.  
It sounds smooth; it sounds right.

## THE CONVENTIONS SONG

(sing to "The Hokey Pokey")

You put your periods in.  
You pull some spelling out.  
You put your capitals in,  
and you shake them all about.  
You make your paper better  
when you edit it just right.  
That's what it's all about.

# 6-Trait Songs, *continued*

Six songs sung to one tune: "If You're Happy & You Know It"

Lyrics by Sutton Elementary (Muncie, IN)  
kindergarten teacher Holly Stachler



## Ideas Song

If you've got a good idea, draw it out.  
If you've got a good idea, write it out.  
If you've got a lot to say,  
say it in a detailed way.  
If you've got a good idea, write it out.



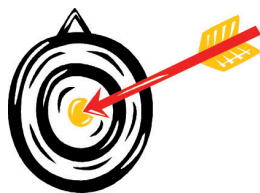
## Organization Song

Start with a strong beginning— Organize.  
Have a detailed middle— Organize.  
Sum it up at the end.  
Then read it through again.  
For a great piece of writing, organize.



## Voice Song\*

If you're happy and you know it, that's your voice.  
If you're sad and you know it, that's your voice.  
If you're spunky and you know it,  
then your words will surely show it.  
Show your feelings in your writing, that's your voice.



## Word Choice Song

Pick your words so very carefully.  
Pick your words so very carefully.  
"Sparkle Words" help you say  
things in a special way.  
Pick your words so very carefully.



## Sentence Fluency Song

Let your ideas flow across the page.  
Let your ideas flow across the page.  
Having different starts  
is a real work of art.  
Let your ideas flow across the page.



## Conventions Song

If you want your writing to pass the test,  
punctuation helps your writing be its best.  
Letters in upper and lowercase,  
put in their proper place,  
make your writing better than all the rest.

# 6-Trait Songs, *continued*

## Lyrics rewritten to more popular tunes

Lyrics by Reagan Elementary (Brownsburg, IN)  
fourth grade teacher Elizabeth Chandler

### Ideas Song

#### Sing to Taio Cruz's "Dynamite"

I put my pencil in the air sometimes.  
Singing A-O! I got ideas!  
I'm gonna' write my lists and stay on topic.  
Singing A-O! I got ideas!  
I'm gonna' write my thoughts.  
Make my ideas clear.  
Tell the reader what I know  
and what I hold most dear.

### Voice Song

#### Sing to Black Eyed Peas' "I Gotta' Feeling"

I gotta' feeling.  
And I'll write that I feel so happy.  
And I'll write that I feel so lonely.  
And I'll write that I feel so grumpy.  
I'm overjoyed! So that's my voice.  
I feel annoyed! And that's my voice.  
Go out and write it. Like, oh my voice!  
Your words will show it. The tone's your choice.  
'Cause I gotta' feeling.

### Sentence Fluency Song

#### Sing to Miley Cyrus's "Party in the U.S.A."

So I write my first words.  
They'll make a statement.  
Are the sentences easy to read?  
Writing some short, like yeah.  
Writing some long, like yeah.  
So I'll write some more words,  
with rhythm and grace.  
You'll read it out loud easily.  
Yeah, it's called sentence fluency.  
Yeah, it's called sentence fluency

### Organization Song

#### Sing to Kesha's "Tik Tok"

Writing in the morning, and I feel so witty.  
Gonna' organize my paper, gonna' make it look pretty.  
'Cause I'll start with a beginning, then a middle, and end.  
When I'm finished with my paper, I'll check transitions again.  
I'm talking about have a bold beginning,  
then a mighty middle.  
Write a strong ending.  
The order will flow like OH, OH, OH, OH—OH, OH, OH, OH!

### Word Choice Song

#### Sing to Lady Gaga's "Poker Face"

Can read my—  
Can read my—  
Yes, you can read my purple words.  
Strong verbs and adjectives.  
Can read my—  
Can read my—  
Yes, you can read my purple words.  
The best words are descriptive.  
P-P-P-Purple words, my P-Purple words  
P-P-P-Purple words, my P-Purple words

### Conventions Song

#### Sing to Cee Lo Green's "Forget You"

I see I made an error there on my first draft.  
And I will, correct you! Ooh, Ooh, Ooh!  
I guess I missed a comma and a question mark.  
So I will, correct you! Ooh, Ooh, Ooh!  
Oopsies, I didn't spell that word right,  
but that don't mean I can't fix it.  
I'll use correct grammar to make my draft better.  
I'll keep correcting and I won't quit.  
I'm using the too-oo-ools  
that helps the reader, too. And,  
they're called conventions! Ooh, Ooh, Ooh!