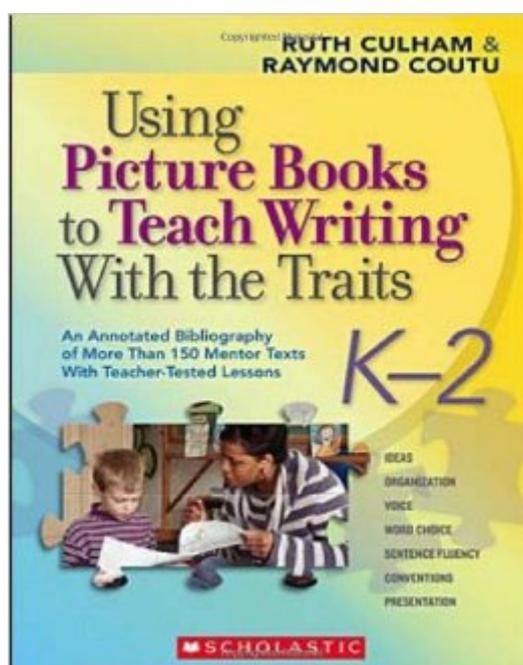


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# Using Picture Books To Teach Writing With The Traits: K-2: An Annotated Bibliography Of More Than 150 Mentor Texts With Teacher-Tested Lessons



## Synopsis

Good teachers have long recognized the power of using picture books as models of good writing. The short, focused, and tightly woven text mirrors the kind of writing they want their students to be doing. In this essential resource, the authors have organized by trait more than 150 annotations of new and classic books that will delight young students and inspire powerful writing. Peppered throughout are 18 step-by-step, trait-focused lessons based on specific books. For use with Grades K-2.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Teaching Resources (Teaching (May 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545025117

ISBN-13: 978-0545025119

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (26 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

It's here! This is a teaching resource you won't want to be without. New to the traits? This book provides you with a definition of each trait that's user-friendly for teachers and young children. What follows is an annotation of a number of picture books that can be used for the trait. As if that isn't enough, each of the six main traits has three focus lessons and follow-up activities to get you going. For those of us that love teaching with the traits and use them faithfully, this book is an energizer. You'll find new picture books to add to your collection, plus old favorites with new ideas on how to use them. As a resource person in my school, I'm often asked to do a lesson at the last minute. No problem! I pull out this magic book, look through the lesson, grab a picture book, and I'm good to go. Classroom teachers love the user-friendliness just as much as I do. Ruth and Ray are to be

applauded. In this age of test scores, change, and everything else that's going on, *Using Picture Books to Teach Writing With the Traits* is a breath of fresh air. It simplifies our teaching lives while making it exciting and fun for teachers and children alike. Thank you, Ruth and Ray, for yet another excellent teaching resource!

A third grade teacher colleague had shared this book with me, and I had to have my own. There is nothing like having a list of books that teach the traits at your fingertips. This resource is another must-have for anyone teaching elementary students the 6 traits of writing!

I'm a first year fourth grade teacher and always on the lookout for good resources. I'm so glad I found this one. When I first introduced picture books into my mini lessons, I explained that picture books aren't "baby" books -- there are so many high quality, beautifully written and illustrated books out there. Students love the books, they are engaged in lessons, and they use the books as references for their writing. In addition to the many detailed lesson plans throughout the book, there is a comprehensive listing of things to do with other picture book titles.

Just when you think Ruth Culham cannot write a more practical, useful book for helping primary teachers with writing, she does it again! This time, with Raymond Coutu, Ruth shows the practicality of the 6-Traits for young writers by using K-2 picture books. As a curriculum director, I see this book as a starter guide for teaching the traits through the literature described in the book. Following a brief description of the traits, there is a bibliography of great children's literature from which to teach the traits. The focus lessons which follow give the teacher step-by-step ideas for sharing the traits with young writers. Culham and Coutu have concocted a pleasing combination ---a virtual "trait-a-palooza" by blending literature with 6-Trait models of good writing!

The writing duo of Ruth Culham and Ray Coutu have a hit on their hands and teachers are the ones who will benefit from their newest publication. *Using Picture Books to Teach Writing with the Traits* is a resource that every classroom should have available. Each trait has a list of "old-time" favorites along with new titles that will evoke interest in writing for all students. The lessons are well thought out and easy to follow. Because of the format, lessons could be done with any title that is suggested. It also helps the teacher remember those favorites that we have left on the shelf and need to revisit for the love of reading and writing. This is a must buy for every teacher who wants their students to see how reading & writing can be fun.

I bought this mainly to use as a booklist, I haven't tried the lessons included in the book and couldn't really tell you if it improved my son's writing skills. It's best used in a classroom as most of the activities can be boring when done alone.

I haven't used all of the ideas in this book yet, but I have been able to get my students very excited about writing through using picture books! The collection of books introduced in this text are quality, and the lesson ideas are wonderful:)

As a parent and teacher, this book has valuable ideas that are easily accessible and understood! I found it to be a great book to have in my bag of tricks for teaching! Thanks Ms. Culham for another insightful book in your line of great books on the traits!

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