

Using WritingFix's Trait Post-Its during Independent Reading

a testimonial from teacher Alice Parker

Last spring, I had the pleasure of attending a teacher in-service course hosted by the Northern Nevada Writing Project in Reno, Nevada. Corbett [Harrison] and Leah [Keuscher] taught us to open the Post-It files on-line and print them on actual Post-It notes, which was great fun.

One of the other attending teachers didn't care for the Post-It notes printed on real Post-Its. She reported to our class that all the Post-Its fell off as soon as the drafts went into her students' messy desks. We all laughed, because that made a lot of sense to us. Corbett suggested that, if we have similar student desk conditions, instead of printing on sticky Post-Its, we print the sheet on colored Xerox paper, cut the Post-It notes out, and staple one to our students' drafts. A good compromise.

But I didn't want to lose the idea of having them on real Post-It Notes. My kids like real Post-Its. They got excited when I passed them out with printing already on them! They thought I was amazing to be able to print them there!

An idea occurred to me. It was my own compromise! What if, during my students' independent reading time, they attached a [trait] Post-It Note to their library books, and at the end of reading time, they had to rank their author's use of one of the traits? My kids had grown a bit bored with writing summary notes to themselves in their reading logs at the end of independent reading time. Might these Post-Its rejuvenate their interest in being held accountable for silent and sustained reading?

My compromise did more than that.

I really noticed the difference when I required my students to explain their trait rankings for the books to partners at the end of independent reading time. This was when the language of traits all came together. Those Post-Its provided them with a "script" that prompted them with language that was good for them to use while looking at reading. They talked like writers while looking at published reading. I was amazed at the conversations I heard.

This year I'm going to use Post-Its during whole class reading assignments, and we're going to talk about traits with many of our shared readings. I'm also using them with our new social studies text. I'll let you know how that goes!

Thanks for those Post-Its, Corbett & Leah! We staple them on during writing time, but for reading time, they will go on those actual sticky notes!

Alice received a complimentary copy of the NNWP's "Going Deep with 6 Trait Language" Guide for sharing this testimonial and allowing us to print it here.

Do you have a great adaptation or a Post-It success story to share? Contact us at Post-It-Notes@writingfix.com and let us know.

Free and awesome 6-Trait resources come from WritingFix!

This document was downloaded from <http://writingfix.com> and <http://writingfix.org>

©2006 Northern Nevada Writing Project. All rights reserved.

Teachers may reprint for classroom use. All others, please visit our website to request permission: (<http://nnwp.org>)