Writing Trait: **Ideas**

Learning Intention: I can create "fishy feeling" artwork then write a memoir about a time I felt this way.

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by Mies Van Hout

Before Reading:

Learning Outcomes: A4, A5,A6, B5

Have students look carefully at the happy fish on the front cover. What evidence can they find that suggests the mood of this fish? (e.g. bright eyes, big smile, bold, bright colours etc.)

Have students predict the content of this book using the title and cover illustration.

During Reading:

Learning Outcomes: A6, B5

Pause a few times as the book is read aloud to discuss the ways in which author and illustrator Mies Van Hout has managed to capture the feelings of each of his fish. Through careful observation, students will see that the eyes, mouth and outline of the fish, often convey feelings.

After Reading:

Learning Outcomes: A5, B7, C3, C4, C8

Picture books serve as motivation and models for writing. Art is also a motivator. Put the two together, and voila! … we have happy, engaged writers.

Provide your students with black construction paper and ultra bright chalk pastels. Model how to draw basic fish shapes, then show how to add expression through the eyes and mouth and patterned designs. Now set kids free to make their own.

Once your artists have created their inspirations, share stories about times they felt this way (happy, sad, curious, surprised, frustrated etc.) Share a piece of writing you've done yourself in which one of these emotions was embedded.

Have students turn and talk about a time in which they experienced the feeling portrayed in their fish art. Have the listener find something they would like more information about by saying, "you could tell me more about…"

With artwork completed, and lots of talk and sharing of ideas among the class, have students write a memoir with a narrow focus and lots of details.

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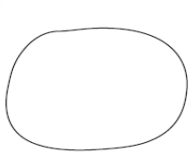
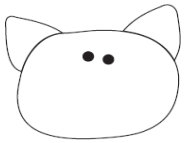
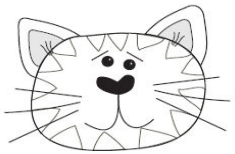
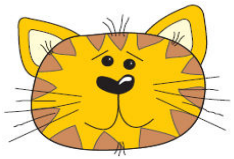
We Are Learning to:

begin with an engaging lead, add lots of rich details, and create a memorable ending.

The Traits of Journal Writing	 ***… a start***	 ***… coming along***	 ***… that's it***	 ***… Wow!***
Ideas	• I need more details so my reader can visualize	• I have a few a few details about topic; needs a few more	• I have interesting details that fit the topic; I could try to add even more	• I have lots of juicy details and examples
Organization	• I need to write an engaging lead sentence. • I ended with a detail so I need an ending.	• My first sentence might be of interest to my reader, but I'm not really sure if it will. • I have an ending, but I don't think it's very satisfying.	• I have a lead sentence that will hook my reader. • I have an ending. I like it and I think others will too.	• I have a lead sentence that my reader will absolutely love! • I think I have been very clever with my ending and my readers will love it.

Name: _____

Based on the book Happy
by Mies Van Hout