

Writing Trait: IDEAS

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by Sally Fitz-Gibbon

Before Reading:

PLOs: A4, A5, A6, B5

Before reading On Uncle John's Farm, ask students to think of a place that is special to them. Have them turn to a partner and explain, in as many details as possible, what makes this place special. Modeling this yourself will help students better understand the kinds of details that are interesting and make nice additions to a piece of writing. Tell children that the job of a writer is to notice what other people miss.

During Reading:

PLOs: A6, B6

As you read On Uncle John's Farm aloud, have students listen for the details this author has included. Did this author notice things that others may have missed?

After Reading:

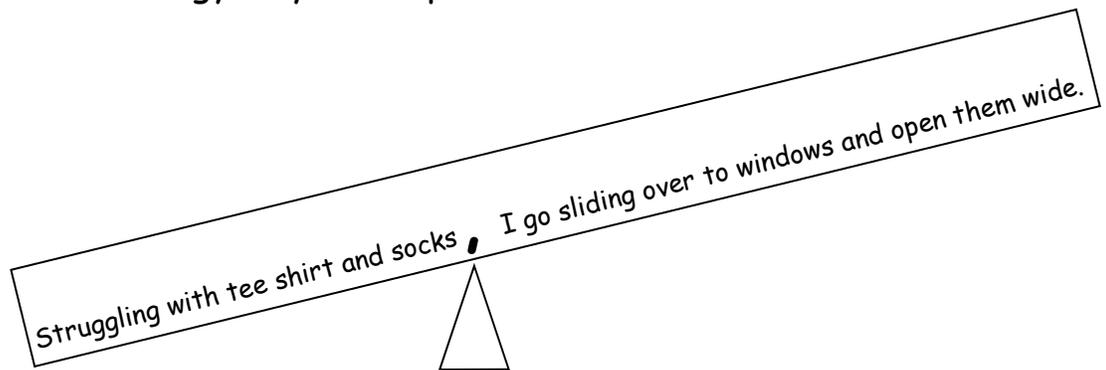
PLOs: A4, A5, A6, B7

After reading the book, read aloud or project the following sentences asking students to notice what each sentence beginning has in common:

- Struggling with tee shirt and socks, I go sliding over to windows and open them wide.
- Leaning out, laughing, I waken a robin sitting so silently still in her nest.
- Leaping and laughing, I follow my nose to warm smells of bacon and syrup and coffee, to arms that hug tightly and welcome me in.
- Licking my fingers and listening to voices, I wriggle and squiggle and slide from my chair.
- Snuffling and smiling, they circle their mothers lying like puddings in thick chocolate sauce.
- Drying, I stand wrapped from nose-tip to toe-tips in thick, puffy towels that smell fresh from the line.
- Nodding and dozing, I curl in my chair.

Writing Trait: **Sentence Fluency**

Once students notice that each sentence begins with an "ing" word, have them look at how each sentence is punctuated. Explain that when a sentence begins with an "ing" word, there are two parts to it. A teeter totter analogy may be helpful.



Brainstorm a list of "ing" words, then have students use these words to create a complex sentence.

Show the student-friendly writing rubric and have a discussion about sentence fluency. Ask how an "ing" opener might help improve sentence fluency.