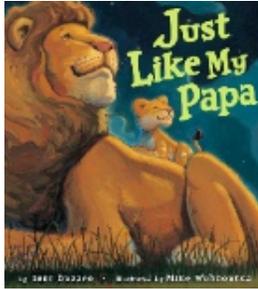


## SIX TRAIT WRITING GUIDE



### *Just Like My Papa*

by Toni Buzzeo; illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka  
Hyperion Books for Children, 2013

#### **IDEAS: Details Convey Theme**

One of the key contributors to strong ideas in a story is the details the author uses to convey his or her theme. If the theme of *Just Like My Papa* is the importance of the parent and child relationship and the modeling the parent does for the child, ask students to discuss the many details author Toni Buzzeo used to convey the interaction of Kito and Papa and the instances where Kito imitates his Papa's behavior. Can you think of other details that the author could also have used?

#### **VOICE: Two Main Characters in One Story**

While *Just Like My Papa* is a story told in third person, the narration actually reflects two voices, Kito's and Papa's. In some scenes, we are hearing about the events of the story from Kito's perspective and in some, from Papa's perspective. Invite students to notice how author Toni Buzzeo differentiated the "voice" in her narration between the two without using any dialogue. How does the narration change when it is Kito and not Papa who is our focus?

#### **ORGANIZATION: What Time Is It?**

The story of Kito and his father follows a time-of-day organization. Ask students to cite specific examples in the text AND THE ILLUSTRATIONS to support what time of day it is in each scene. Once they have done so for each scene, discuss how the time of day influences the action in the story and consider why author Toni Buzzeo chose to organize the story in the way.

#### **SENTENCE FLUENCY: Just One**

There are many single word sentences in this story. Ask students to go on a hunt for them and list them, with their punctuation, on chart paper or a white board. Why do they end with an exclamation point? How would the feeling of the story change if these single word sentences and their exclamation points were removed? Discuss their importance to the story. What work do they do?

#### **WORD CHOICE: Verbs Do the Work**

Author Toni Buzzeo chooses her verbs carefully in *Just Like My Papa*. Ask students to go on a verb search on each page of the book. Challenge them to think of a more ordinary verb replacement for each of Toni's interesting verbs and then discuss how this would change your feeling about the story. For example, if instead of writing, "Yellow moon peeks over the horizon," she had written, "The yellow moon was shining," how would it change the feeling you experience as a reader?

#### **CONVENTIONS: Are They Thinking or Talking?**

Did you notice that when Kito or Papa is thinking something, the thought is printed in italics on the page? This helps us to know that these are thoughts of the characters. But author Toni Buzzeo did not use quotation marks. If she had, the characters would have been talking. Go through and put quotation marks in place. Then talk about how this changes your feelings about the story.