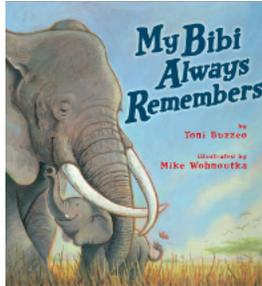


SIX TRAIT WRITING GUIDE



My Bibi Always Remembers

by Toni Buzzeo; illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
Hyperion Books for Children, 2014

IDEAS: Details Paint a Picture of Setting

One of the important ways that an author conveys a setting that the illustrator and the reader can clearly picture is in the details he/she uses. Ask students to discuss the many details author Toni Buzzeo used to convey the savannah during this time of drought.

Make a list of them beginning with "the wide, parched plain." Ask students to explain what that phrase means and what picture of the setting it calls to mind.

VOICE:

My Bibi Always Remembers is told in third person point of view, but the perspective is little Tembo's. However, it could have been told in the same third person point of view using Bibi's perspective. Ask students to consider what would have changed. For example, the first page might have read:

RUMMMMBLE!

Wise Bibi leads her thirsty family
across the wide, parched plain.

Ask: *What comes next?*

ORGANIZATION: Third Time Is a Charm

The story of Tembo and her Bibi uses an organizational pattern called the **Pattern of Three**. Begin with a retelling of *The Three Pigs* and discuss the organization of this familiar **Pattern of Three** story. Next, encourage students to think of other stories that employ a **Pattern of Three** in which the main character repeats the same pattern three times with a different result each time, the final time being the most satisfying.

Ask them to apply this idea to *My Bibi Always Remembers*. Ask: *How many times does Tembo go off on her own and become separated from the family? What does she do each time she is lost? What makes the final time the most satisfying?* After some discussion, help students to write a group or individual summary using the following template.

Tembo has a problem. She likes to _____.

Her first idea is to _____,

but _____, so

_____ rescues her.

Her second idea is to _____,

but _____, so

_____ rescues her.

Her final idea is to _____

and then _____, so

_____ rescues her.

SENTENCE FLUENCY: The Long and Short of It

Author Toni Buzzeo employs a repeated refrain in this story. She uses one long sentence, broken into four lines, and two short sentences in her refrain.

Look closely at the repeated refrain in the story:

When Bibi calls,
everyone comes—
aunties, sisters, Mama—
one by one.
Step-step.
Searching for wet.

Talk about what effect the variation in length of sentences has on the rhythm of the refrain.

WORD CHOICE: Vocabulary Building

Author Toni Buzzeo chooses her words carefully in her stories and may even use words students are not familiar with. Ask students:

Can you figure out what these words mean by listening carefully to the sentences that surround them and looking closely at the illustrations?

plain	parched	jackalberry tree
acacia tree	vibrate	taunt
squawk	trumpet	squeal
wavering	broad	drift
huff	stubby	slick
snug	nestle	

CONVENTIONS: Is She Thinking or Talking?

Ask: *Did you notice that when Tembo or one of the adult elephants 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.