

**Modes & Traits:
Writing Lessons Across the Year**

DIGITAL SAMPLER

 SCHOLASTIC

Getting Started



Writing well is essential to student success—in the classroom, on assessments, and in life. But writing is a complex skill, and teaching it isn't always easy. That's why Modes & Traits: Writing Lessons Across the Year breaks writing down into teachable elements:

THREE MODES

What We Write



Narrative Writing



Informational Writing



Opinion Writing

SIX TRAITS

How We Write



Ideas



Organization



Voice



Word Choice



Sentence Fluency



Conventions

Created by writing experts Ruth Culham and Libby Jachles, this grade-specific K–5 program features a wealth of ready-to-teach lessons, mentor texts, assessment guidelines, digital supports, and clear recommendations for sequencing lessons across the year. With everything you need to improve student writing, Modes & Traits is sure to make your instruction more effective and exciting, and easier to implement all year long.

MEET THE AUTHORS



Ruth Culham, Ed.D., launched a writing revolution with her groundbreaking work on writing traits. Her ongoing work with the traits and modes of writing is the culmination of 40 years of research, practice, and passion for the teaching and learning of writing.



Libby Jachles, a former classroom teacher, is a literacy coach who specializes in training national and international classroom teachers on teaching writing using the traits and modes.



Click on the "View" buttons to see samples of these interconnected resources!

Writing Instruction Made Simple



Pacing Guide: How to Combine Your Crates and Sequence the Lessons

This powerful new writing program gives you everything you need to improve student writing this school year. One kit contains all your materials on modes and another has all your trait-based materials. An easy-to-use pacing guide walks you through the literature and lessons in each kit and shows you how to combine them to quickly and efficiently sequence lessons across the year!

[View](#)

Sample Four-Week Unit

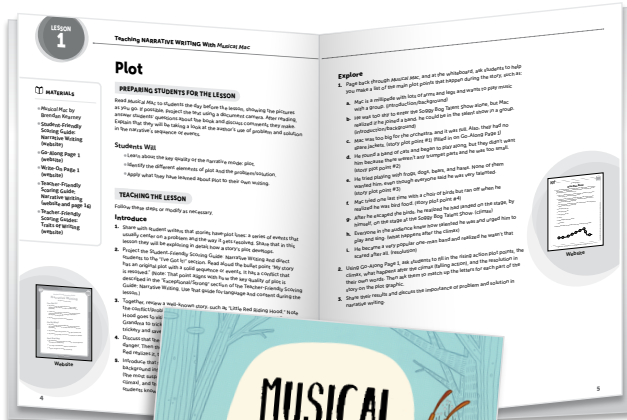
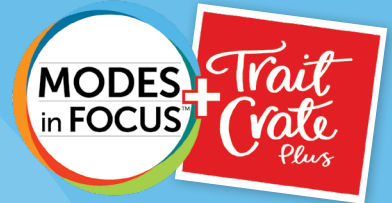
UNIT 4: NARRATIVE WRITING • OVERVIEW GRADE 3



Week	Days 1 and 2	Days 3 and 4	Day 5
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mode Lesson: Plot • MIF Teaching Guide, pages 4–7 • Mentor Text: <i>Musical Mac</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trait Lesson: Varying Sentence Types (Sentence Fluency) • TCP Teaching Guide, pages 6–7 • Mentor Text: <i>Too Many Toys</i> 	<p>Conventions: Teach a grade-level standard for conventions and have students apply it by editing a piece of their writing from this week.</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mode Lesson: Characters • MIF Teaching Guide, pages 8–11 • Mentor Text: <i>Musical Mac</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trait Lesson: Developing the Topic (Ideas) • TCP Teaching Guide, pages 8–9 • Mentor Text: <i>The Swing</i> 	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mode Lesson: Setting • MIF Teaching Guide, pages 12–15 • Mentor Text: <i>Musical Mac</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trait Lesson: Structuring the Body (Organization) • TCP Teaching Guide, pages 8–9 • Mentor Text: <i>Train</i> 	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trait Lesson: Applying Grammar and Usage (Conventions) • TCP Teaching Guide, pages 10-11 • Mentor Text: <i>Exclamation Mark</i> 	<p>Invite students to choose a favorite piece of writing from the unit and share it with the class.</p>	

Try a Week of Instruction With These Materials!

UNIT 4: NARRATIVE WRITING • WEEK 1



Mode Lesson: Plot

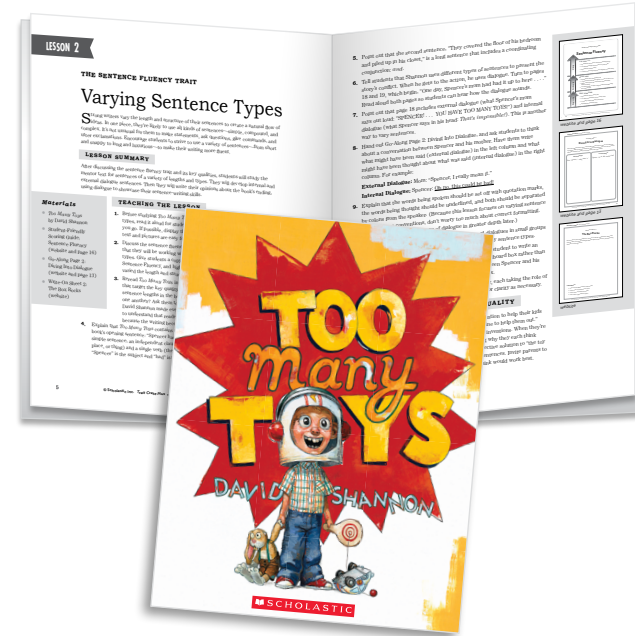
Teaching Guide: Lesson Plan

Mentor Text: *Musical Mac*

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Trait Lesson: Sentence Fluency/ Varying Sentence Types

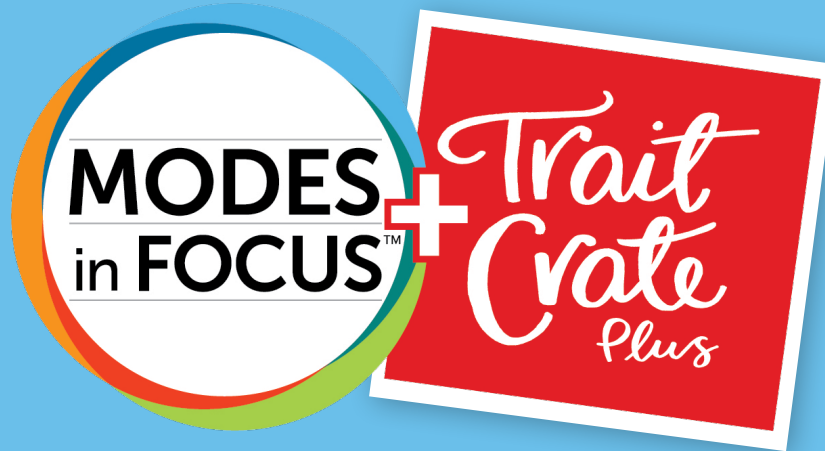
Teaching Guide: Lesson Plan

Mentor Text: *Too Many Toys*

[View](#)

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Contact your local rep to receive more information about Modes & Traits!

Contact