

Using an eBook as a **Mentor Text** to Highlight Writing Traits

A mentor text is a piece of writing that is used by teachers and students to study the craft of writing. Mentor texts inspire writers, as well as allow them to study genre and specific writing elements.

Choose Your Text & Writing Trait

This lesson plan works well with texts that showcase these writing traits:

Ideas

Organization

Voice

Word Choice

Sentence Fluency

Conventions

Presentation

Select an eBook that focuses specifically on a writing trait, such as word choice. If using a nonfiction text, think about creating powerful descriptions, using domain specific vocabulary and writing to create vivid mental images.

Read Aloud & Model

Through shared reading and teacher think-alouds, use MackinVIA tools to annotate and model this writing trait:

Highlighter



Notes



Dictionary



Bookmark



Questions

Questions and ideas for students to consider as they work independently or in small-groups to find good examples of word choice in other MackinVIA titles.

- 1** Read a page silently. Read the page aloud. How does this give you more to think about in regards to word choice?
- 2** What word choice(s) created pictures in your mind?
- 3** Did some words “come alive” on the page? How? Why?
- 4** As a writer, how will you focus on word choice?

Students are expected to have strong **examples** of word choice either highlighted, bookmarked or noted in books located in their MackinVIA Backpacks.

Additional Ideas

- Create a MackinVIA “Group” for mentor texts and/or teaching specific writing traits
- Use a shared Google Doc to build word choice ideas (strong verbs, phrases, sensory language, specific unit of study vocabulary)
- Integrate other Web 2.0 tools such as [Wordle](#) or [Padlet](#).