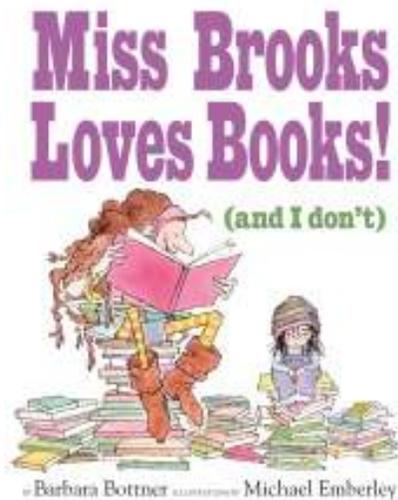# Writing Trait: Ideas and Organization

Learning Intention: establish a clear understanding of how character flaws create a story's problem

S.D. #71

By Barbara Bottner

Before Reading

Learning Outcomes: A2, A3, A5, A6, A9, B5,

Tell students that stories almost always contain a problem and a solution. Ask students to use the picture and title to predict what the problem might be in this story. Ask students to turn and talk about   connections they may have to this title.

Explain that the learning intention for this lesson is to carefully examine character flaws and how flaws can create a problem in a story. The link between problem and solution must be clear before students write   stories of their own.

During Reading

Learning Outcomes: B6, B11

As the story is read, ask students to listen carefully for a character flaw. Pause while reading this book and ask students to predict how the author may solve this issue. Discussions like this allow students to see that there are many ways to solve problems and fuel them with ideas for their own stories. (Please see other suggested titles and BLMs)

After Reading

Learning Outcomes: B7, B11, C4, C5, C6, C9,

After listening to Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I Don't), ask students to use the following graphic organizers to create a list of character flaws. Gather some of the books in the charts (pages 4 and 5 of this document) and as students read these examples, they will continue to fill in the chart. When the chart is complete, have students choose a few of the character flaws that they would like to use as a basis for their own story.

Examples of Characters Flaws
that Create Story Problems

dislikes reading likes reading		

Examples of Characters Flaws
that Create Story Problems

stingy	unappreciative	boastful
generous	grateful	humble
selfish	suspicious	silly
unselfish	trusting	serious
picky eater	angry	messy
tries new things	calm	neat
unkind	gloomy	fearful
caring	cheerful	brave
rude	stubborn	shy
polite	easy going	outgoing
not dependable	late	pessimistic
responsible	punctual	optimistic
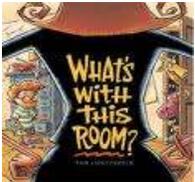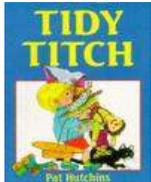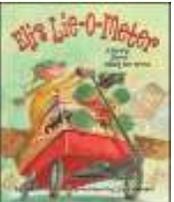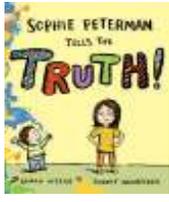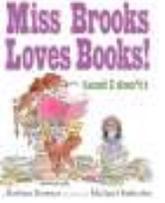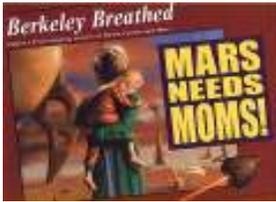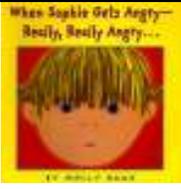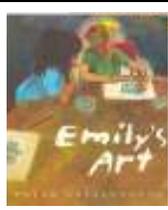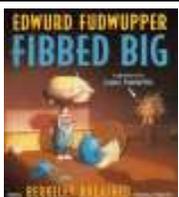
Theme: Characters Change			
	The Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill		Would I Ever Lie to You? by Caralyn Buehner
	What's with this room? by Tom Lichtenheld		Tidy Titch By Pat Hutchins
	Eli's Lie-O-Meter: A Story about Telling the Truth by Sandra Levins		Sophie Peterman Tells the Truth by Sarah Weeks
	Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I don't) by Barbara Potter		Too Purpley by Jean Reidy
	The Truly Terribly Horrible Sweater that Grandma Knit by Debbie MacOmber and Mary Lou Carney		Mars Needs Moms by Berkeley Breathed
	When Sophie Gets Angry, Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang		Emily's Art by Peter Catalanotto
	The Boy Who Wouldn't Share by Mike Reiss		I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato by Lauren Child
	Too Many Toys by David Shannon		A Visitor for Bear by Bonny Becker
	Edward Fudwupper Fibbed Big By Berkeley Breathed		Estelle and the Self-Esteem Machine by Bannatyne-Cugnet & Bell