

Writing Trait: **Ideas**

Learning Intention: I can create "fishy feeling" artwork and tell about a time I felt this way.

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by Mies Van Hout

Before Reading:

Have students look carefully at the happy fish on the front cover. What evidence can they find that suggests the mood of this fish? (e.g. bright eyes, big smile, bold, bright colours etc.)

Have students predict the content of this book using the title and cover illustration.

During Reading:

Pause a few times as the book is read aloud to discuss the ways in which author and illustrator Mies Van Hout has managed to capture the feelings of each of his fish. Through careful observation, students will see that the eyes, mouth and outline of the fish, often convey feelings. Also pause to give lots of opportunities for students to turn and talk to share life stories that connect with each page of the book. Be prepared. This simple book can take a LONG time to read. But remember, "Reading and writing float on a sea of talk." (James Britton)

After Reading:

Picture books serve as motivation and models for writing. Art is also a motivator. Put the two together, and voila! ... we have happy, engaged writers.

Provide your students with black construction paper and ultra bright chalk pastels. Model how to draw basic fish shapes, then show how to add expression through the eyes and mouth and patterned designs. Now set kids free to make their own.

Once your artists have created their inspirations, share stories about times they felt this way (happy, sad, curious, surprised, frustrated etc.) Share a piece of writing you've done yourself in which one of these emotions was embedded.

With artwork completed, and lots of talk and sharing of ideas among the class, have students complete a sentence framework in which they describe a time they felt happy or sad, or afraid etc.

I feel happy when ... use best guess spelling or have an adult scribe their story. With a record app on your phone, their story may be recorded. If you're feeling brave, create a QR code that captures this audio file.



Walt

We Are Learning to:

draw and tell about a time
we hurt ourselves.

Name: _____
Based on the book Happy
by Mies Van Hout

