

## Writing Trait: Ideas

Learning Intention: Noticing details; including details in writing

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### THE SMALLEST GIRL IN THE SMALLEST GRADE



By Justin Roberts

### Before Reading

Share the image on the front cover with students along with the title. Have students predict what this story might be about.

Choose ten words from the story and share those with children. From these ten words, students can fine tune their prediction.

Encourage them to show off their flexible brain and demonstrate how ten new words changed their thinking.

### During Reading

Discuss the expression, "The glass is half full." Many students will not understand this. While reading, have them notice how Sally switches her lens. At first she notices all that's going wrong. Later, she starts noticing something else. How is her change in perspective like the expression, "The glass is half full?"

What does Sally McCabe pay attention to in the story?

What does she notice?

What does Sally do and how does her one small action create change?

How does her perspective shift?

### After Reading

Pay extra special attention. Be like Sally McCabe and notice.... Go outside during recess with a mission to notice what's happening. Be prepared for a quick write in which you "explode the moment" and notice what others miss. Before writing, tell someone about your observation. The listener should listen deeply for details the observer shared.

If an unkind act was witnessed, find ways to make a positive difference. Encourage students to make notes about their observations. Include a solution to this issue in your writing.

Encourage several days of noticing. Encourage students to think about simple ways to make a difference to anything that needs tweaking. These become powerful journal entries to capture, savor and share.



## Our Learning Intention:

*I can notice details that others may miss.*



## Key Qualities of the Traits

### IDEAS

Clear messages

Narrowed focus

Vivid details

Stays on Topic

### ORGANIZATION

A brilliant beginning

A mighty middle

An excellent ending

Transitions that create flow

### SENTENCE FLUENCY

Complete sentences

Sentences begin with  
different words

Sentences are different lengths

### WORD CHOICE

Fresh and original  
word combinations

Trying out new words

Poetic devices

### VOICE

Passion for the topic

Contains writer's personality

There's a reader/writer  
connection

### CONVENTIONS

Spelling

Grammar

Punctuation

Use of paragraphs