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Introduction

Each book in the *Power Practice*™ series contains dozens of ready-to-use activity pages to provide students with skill practice. Use the fun activities to supplement and enhance what you are already teaching in your classroom. Give an activity page to students as independent class work, or send the pages home as homework to reinforce skills taught in class. An answer key is included at the end of each book to provide verification of student responses.

The activity pages in *Traits of Good Writing Grades 6–8* provide an ideal way to enhance students' writing skills. The book features activities that target six important traits of writing: Ideas and Content, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. These fun and challenging activities give students many opportunities to practice each writing skill in a meaningful way.

As students learn to recognize the traits of good writing, they will brainstorm and develop topics, develop and organize their thoughts and ideas, and then put their writing skills into practice. Students will gain confidence in their writing ability as they enhance grammar and usage skills and gain an awareness of how word choice and sentence development influence their writing. As your young authors establish a style and voice of their own, they will be well on their way to becoming successful and competent writers.

Use these ready-to-go activities to “recharge” skill review and give students the power to succeed!

Writer's Notebook

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS

The topics we enjoy writing about are usually the ones that matter to us. Look for experiences and ideas that you really care about. Jot down ideas when you find them or think about them. When it comes time to write, you will have a myriad of ideas from which to choose.

Here are some prompts to get you started. Fill in each blank with an idea or recall an experience that matters to you.

Flashback: _____
Look through old photographs, letters, or souvenirs for an idea.

Favorite Place: _____
Think about a place you particularly enjoy.

It Happened to Me: _____
Think about an experience that others would be surprised by.

I Never Thought I Would: _____
Recall something you did that seemed impossible.

Remember When: _____
Reminisce about a fond memory.

If Only I Could: _____
Think about a dream you have.

Dream Vacation: _____
Where would you like your next travel adventure to take you?



Take Another Look

GENERATING IDEAS

Sometimes inspiration for a writing idea comes from familiar places. One place might be looking at familiar stories in a new way.

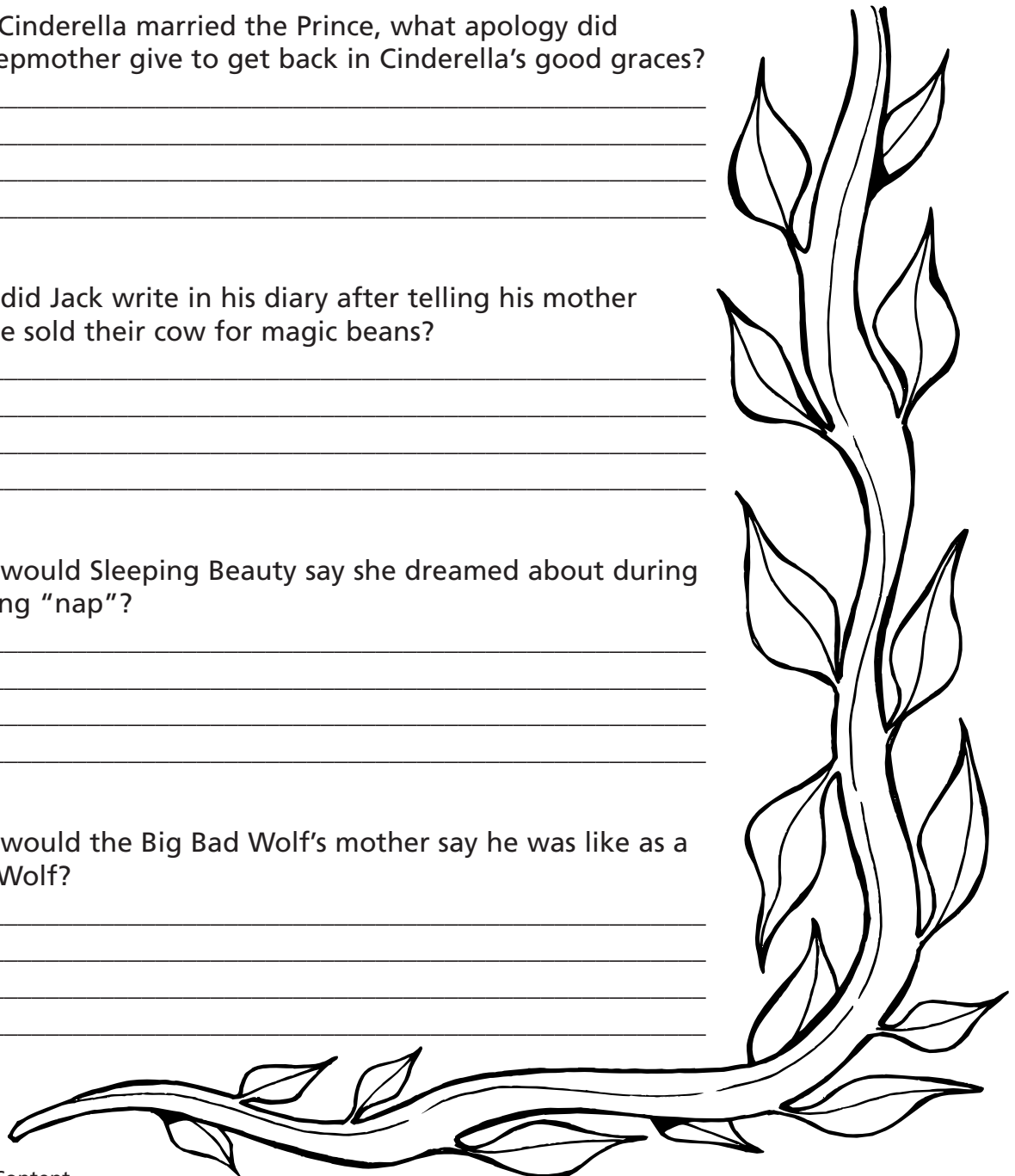
Write a short paragraph to answer questions inspired by familiar stories.

- 1 After Cinderella married the Prince, what apology did her stepmother give to get back in Cinderella's good graces?

- 2 What did Jack write in his diary after telling his mother that he sold their cow for magic beans?

- 3 What would Sleeping Beauty say she dreamed about during her long "nap"?

- 4 What would the Big Bad Wolf's mother say he was like as a Little Wolf?



Name That Genre

GENERATING IDEAS

Books are one place to find ideas for your writing. Books are organized into categories called **genres**. Science-fiction, mystery, romance, fantasy, historical fiction, and comedy are all genres. Experimenting with different genres can give you new ideas for your writing.

Label each book summary with the genre that most closely describes its type of fiction. Some genres may be used more than once.



- 1 Fairies, elves, and gnomes populate the world of Evergreen. Unfortunately, an evil sorcerer is threatening this peaceful land. It is up to the magical communities to save their kingdom from certain destruction. _____
- 2 What if you could push a button and have your next meal instantly appear? That's just what happens with the invention Mike and his father create for the science fair. Will this new device change the world or threaten to destroy it? _____
- 3 Can two people who meet only briefly really fall instantly in love? Sarah and Alex believe so. Follow their adventure as they spend the summer trying desperately to find each other again. _____
- 4 The portrait of the principal is missing and the students of Hoover Middle School want to know why. They never expected to discover that the principal disappeared as well. Can they put the pieces together in time to save their school? _____
- 5 Did you ever wonder what it would have been like to be Abraham Lincoln's best friend? This story imagines what the great president might have been like as a boy. Told through the eyes of a childhood friend, we see how normal the great leader may have been. _____
- 6 Alice just wants to go to summer camp in peace, but her siblings are determined to keep her at home. After hilarious pranks and unbelievable stunts, Alice learns just how much she is loved. _____
- 7 Cars that fly and buses that travel over water are a couple of the amazing ways to travel in the year 3004. You won't believe what other inventions are making life easier and more fun. _____

Sentence Stretch

ELABORATING ON IDEAS

Simple sentences are the beginning of a good idea. But to really capture the reader's attention, you will need to elaborate by adding details to your sentences.

Simple sentence: The lion roared.
When: The lion roared last night.
Size/Color: The huge, golden lion roared last night.
Where: The huge, golden lion roared in the jungle last night.
How: The huge, golden lion roared loudly in the jungle last night.

"Stretch" each simple sentence by adding the following four kinds of details: when, size or color, where, and how.

1 The Ferris wheel turned around and around.

2 The cat purred.

3 My shoes squeaked.

4 Their car stalled.

5 The grocery bag ripped.

6 The wind blew.

7 Her school closed.

Like a Person

DEVELOPING IDEAS

Personification is the technique of giving living characteristics to nonliving things. You can use personification to highlight details of an object or an abstract idea.

Consider details that describe or explain each topic. Then use those details to write a short paragraph that includes personification. Write one paragraph using your own topic idea.

Sample topic: cookie

Mrs. Cookie admitted that she was never very dependable. Her friends called her flaky. She doesn't hold up well under pressure. In fact, she has been known to crumble.

1 topic: tree

2 topic: green

3 topic: curiosity

4 topic: rock

5 topic: wind

6 topic:
