

Language Arts

6 Traits Writing

At Gilbert Christian Schools helping Christian students become effective writers is a priority. We have chosen to speak to students about their writing with vocabulary and concepts based on a method of instruction that emphasizes 6 writing traits. The 6 traits are inter-related qualities that define good writing. At the middle school level we use *Great Source Write Traits* written by writing expert and founding coordinator of the original 6 Traits team, Vicki Spandel. To learn more about 6 Traits and how Arizona assesses student writing for the AIMS test go to the state web site:

<http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/aims/sampletests/6trait/>

Grammar

The Sadlier *Grammar for Writing* series further develops the 6 traits approach by giving students tools foundational to effective written communication. Categories covered include the writing process, subject-verb agreement, and punctuation. Test taking strategies like how to write a timed essay prepare students for ACT and SAT assessments.

Vocabulary Builder

Middle school students build SAT vocabulary weekly through in class assignments and an online program at Quizlet.com.

Mosdos Anthologies

Mosdos Press is a superior secular literature anthology series that does not compromise values. Beginning in middle school, Gilbert Christian School students study literature in a variety of genres in an in-depth manner in preparation for high school English. Mosdos Press Literature Anthologies are organized thematically and around six genres: short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, the novella, and the novel. To facilitate this type of instruction, children use an anthology series recommended by Associated Christian Schools International (ACSI) called Mosdos Press. Mosdos carefully selects each piece of literature in their anthologies for the quality of the literature and the wholesome values the story supports. The publisher itself explains it this way: *Our selections have enduring literary worth. Our curriculum teaches intellectual probing, analysis, a respect for language, and the weighing of ethics and values. Our textbooks have order and clarity. The pages are never visually overwhelming. We do not bombard children. Every selection is accessible. We take the student step-by-step, so that no child will throw up a barrier and think, "I cannot learn." Our workbook is literate, funny, and visually delightful! This workbook will enable your children to take tests successfully.* For more information about Mosdos go to:

<http://www.mosdospress.com/curriculum.html>

Literature Studies

Our philosophy is that learning to read and enjoy quality literature is beneficial both academically and spiritually. For that reason, the utmost care is taken in selecting each

book we require a student to read. Students in middle school will read from a variety of genres and styles including up to 6 novels in the school year.

Critical Reading Series

Middle school students develop critical reading skills through the use of *Rescued: 21 Stories of Courage and Luck- with Exercises for Developing Critical Reading Skills*. Reading comprehension skills taught include finding the main idea, recalling facts, making inferences, and using words precisely. Summarizing and paraphrasing, responding, and assessing are comprehensive skills included in every lesson.