

Table of Contents

Introduction	3	Who Is That?	40
Standards for Writing	4	The Style and Voices of	42
Standards Table	6	Developing My Own Style.	44
Ready, Set, Go!		Snowboarding for Everyone.	45
(introduction to the student)	7	Organization Trait	46
Ideas-and-Content Trait	8	Organization (to the student)	47
Ideas and Content (to the student)	9	Finding Your Way Through the Game Plan	48
Bicycling for Writers	10	What’s the Strategy?	49
Mountain Biking for Writers	11	The Kickoff . . . and the Goal.	50
Gathering Your Supplies	12	Here’s the Plan.	52
Supply Lists—Generating Topics and My Idea!	13	My Game Plan.	53
Extreme Adventure	14	It’s a Classic	54
Obstacles on the Trail	15	Classic Strategy	55
Oops! Watch Out for That Rock!	16	Conventions Trait	56
Examine the Trail.	17	Conventions (to the student)	57
Word Choice Trait	18	Proofreading Marks	58
Word Choice (to the student)	19	Warming Up	59
Shots That Make the Basket . . . and Those That Don’t.	20	The Pitch	60
Counting Points	21	You Swing.	64
A Game Plan for Effective Writing	22	One Base at a Time	65
Photo Album	23	Home Run	66
Starring	24	Levels of Revision.	67
The Greatest	25	Presentation Trait	68
Fluency Trait	27	Presentation (to the student)	69
Fluency (to the student)	28	Introducing	70
Splashing in Fluency	29	Presenting	71
What If . . . ?	30	The Athletes Speak	72
Dance in the Water.	31	Visual Aid Samples	73
Just Splashing Around	32	Track and Field—a Collage of Events	74
Different Strokes	34	Your Presentation.	75
Voice Trait	36	All-Star Track Meet	76
Voice (to the student)	37	Answer Key	77
The Sounds of the Slopes.	38	Technology Resources	79
Whose Style?	39	Bibliography	80

Just Splashing Around

Tip from the Coach

Work with others to develop a sense of fun and pattern in your writing.

Equipment

- story starters
- writing materials

Trait Development

(Your teacher may have you work with a small group to complete this exercise.)

Read the story starter your teacher gives you. Consider the questions “What if . . . ?” and “What happens next?” Write two follow-up sentences to come after the story starter. Fold the paper over so your writing does not show. Pass the paper to the next person in your group. As each person passes his or her paper around, you will receive another story. Write two more sentences for that story, without reading what the previous person wrote. Continue writing sentences and passing the stories around until you have received your original story starter back. Unfold the papers and read the silly stories to each other.

Check Yourself

Discuss with others in your group how these mixed-up stories do or do not exhibit characteristics of the fluency trait. What factors affected the fluency? How were these stories easier or harder to understand?

My Notes

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Just Splashing Around *(cont.)*

Story Starter #1

Robert lay in bed staring at the water stain on the ceiling right over his head. The stain was oddly shaped, and he often imagined it was a map of a different country . . .

Story Starter #2

“Look!” John pointed a finger at the light flickering through the trees beyond the cabin window. Caleb didn’t answer. Instead, he covered his head with his sleeping bag . . .

Story Starter #3

Once, very long ago, an old man lived in the remains of a castle. He could not speak, but those who lived in the countryside around knew of his helpfulness . . .

Story Starter #4

“I’m running away and never coming back!” Tara stomped her feet and ran outside. She slammed the door behind her . . .

Story Starter #5

Silently, I walked up to the edge of the crowd. The people were intent, watching some activity on the lake shore. I stood on my toes and tried to see over the heads of those standing in front of me . . .