Look Who Lives in the Ocean!
6+1 Traits of Writing

As an author, the 6+1 Traits of Writing play an important role in my work. Below, I have listed precisely how they applied to creating my book, *Look Who Lives in the Ocean!* Can you see them reflected in of the final product?

Ideas
- I decided to write a book about animals because this is a topic I know very well.
- I narrowed it to ocean animals because it made the information more manageable than doing all animals.
- My goal was to make it funny but educational.
- I wanted to add a variety of interesting details that most people don't know.

Organization
- I opened with a simple premise: despite its flat appearance, the ocean is home to many animals.
- Next, I covered 21 animals very systematically, but with little surprises in the prose and illustrations.
- I kept the facts for each animal together so they could be shown separately from the main text.
- I made a "book-end" conclusion—it confirms the original premise using similar language to the first page.

Voice
- I chose to write the main text in rhyme—in my own style, which I call "wordplay".
- I carefully worked with the text so the facts were presented in a unique and funny way.

Word Choice
- When writing in metered rhyme, word choice is very, very important! I chose each word with care.
- It took a lot of puzzling and editing to make the prose work. I didn't stop until it was right.
- By selecting vivid words, I was able to bring my ideas to life.
- I had limited space for my facts, so I had to keep the sentences tight and precise.

Sentence Fluency
- I knew the rhythm of my writing was just as important as the rhyme. In poetry, it's called "meter".
- I read each stanza aloud over and over (and over…) to "hear" any spots that weren't working.
- I added alliterations where I could to create little tongue-twisters for the reader.

Conventions
- I double and triple-checked my spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. and edited any mistakes.
- Finally, I reread everything to be sure it made sense and was easy to comprehend.

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Presentation
- A lot of effort went into the design and layout of *Look Who Lives in the Ocean!*
- The colorful and well-organized result showcased my writing very nicely!