

Zachary Z. Packrat and His Amazing Collections

How I Used 6+1 Traits of Writing

It takes a lot of planning and effort to create a good book. Below, I have listed precisely how 6+1 Traits of Writing applied to the writing of *Zachary Z. Packrat and His Amazing Collections*. I hope this helps you see the value of each element in the writing process.

Ideas

- I wanted to write a book about packrats because I like packrats... *and* because my parents are “packrats”
- So I decided on a character that could represent both the human and animal traits.
- My goal was to make it funny and detail the kinds of things humans collect.
- I also wanted to reveal the interesting science behind animal packrats and their middens.
- I hoped to encourage readers to think about why we collect things and whether those things have value.

Organization

- I opened with a prelude (note from the author) to explain the term packrat and share scientific information.
- The main story was designed to take readers on a journey through Zach’s world of collections.
- I made a “book-end” conclusion to confirm the original premise—the last page has similar wording to the first.
- I added questions at the end so readers could contemplate everything I had presented.

Voice

- I chose to write the main text in rhyme—in my own style, which I call “wordplay”.
- The prelude was written in an expository style to reflect a voice of knowledge and authority.

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 make the story more interesting and unique.
- I had limited space for my prelude, so I had to keep my ideas clear and my sentences concise.

Sentence Fluency

- I knew the rhythm of my writing was just as important as the rhyme. In poetry, it’s called “meter”.
- I read the story aloud over and over (and over...) to “hear” any sections that weren’t working.
- I also added a lot of alliterations to create tongue-twisters for the reader (*also added a lot of alliterations*).

Conventions

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

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Presentation

- A lot of effort went into the design and layout of *Zachary Z. Packrat and His Amazing Collections*.
- Good choices in illustrations, fonts, cover, etc make it visually appealing and showcase my writing!