

The Simple 6™ for Beginning Writers

By Kay Davidson

The Simple 6™ for Beginning Writers is organized into five chapters starting with Using Picture Books as a Motivation for Writing, Teaching Young Students to Draw, Assessment for Beginning Artists and Authors, The Simple 6™: A Writing Rubric for Kids, and ending with Prompts for Beginning Writers.

Each chapter contains all kinds of ideas to encourage students at the K through 2nd grade levels to write and draw. I particularly liked the author's write up in Chapter One about the value of reading to our students every day. She says, "*Reading is the key to becoming a lifelong learner ... Reading introduces us to characters we will never meet, to places we will never visit, to situations we will never experience on our own*". In Chapter Four the author outlines a very good Writing Rubric in six steps: 1. Stick to the topic, 2. Check for logical order, 3. Include interesting words, 4. Use different sentence patterns, 5. Write descriptive sentences and, 6. Write for an audience.

Every chapter contains good useable material for students particularly at the early grade levels. I can see where this book can be used along with some of the scripted materials in those schools where they are using such programs as America's Choice, etc. I can also see how it can be integrated into differentiated lesson planning since it provides materials for all learning levels including the gifted.

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