

Does Color Make a Difference?
(Fluency Passage from Reading a-z)



Mr. Garza and his fifth-grade students were exploring the importance of color in nature and in other places. “The color red can give you energy,” Mr. Garza explained. “Blue can be soothing.” He asked the students to describe how the gray color of the walls made them feel. They said that the color was boring and dull.

“Could we paint the classroom a different color?” one of the students asked. The other students nodded eagerly in agreement. Mr. Garza replied that they would have to ask the principal for permission. He assigned the students the task of meeting with the principal to persuade her to allow them to repaint the classroom.

The students were excited when the principal granted permission. They discussed various colors for the classroom walls and finally decided on a soft yellow. The parents’ club donated the paint, rollers, brushes, and other equipment.

Painting day was on Saturday. The students, along with several parents, gathered together. First, they removed everything from the classroom walls. Next, they moved all the furniture to the middle of the room. Then Mr. Garza explained how to proceed with the painting. He urged them to use caution and not spill or waste the paint.

When the work was done, the students were pleased with their accomplishment. The new color brightened the classroom. The principal brought members of the school board to see the classroom. Before long, every classroom in the school had a fresh coat of paint.

In the story, the students in Mr. Garza’s class learned the importance of color in nature and other places. Think of a time when a color affected your mood or actions and write a story that tells what happened. Be sure to include how the choice of color made you feel.

Holistic Score: 4

Every Monday, I go to a place called Hollywood kids. I take voice lessons at 5:00 p.m., but we have to use the upstairs room because there's a hip-hop class that goes on at 5:00 p.m. as well. That being said, we never got the experience of being onstage. Of course, I had had the experience, because I take acting classes there and have been in a couple shows. One day though, Miss Margie, who owns the

company, surprised the Hollywood Idol class, that's my voice class. We walked in, and there it was, a new mini-stage, and freshly painted walls that were a deep black.

"Well, how do you like it?" my voice teacher, Miss Sarah, asked.

"We love it!" we all exclaimed.

"Whenever you see Miss Margie, make sure to thank her!" Miss Sarah replied with a smile.

That day, I sang the best I'd sung since voice lessons started. Well, maybe not, but it sure felt like it. I give full credit to those newly painted, black walls. Why, you might ask? It's because I was more relaxed than I had ever been. The color black is so simple, that it's complex, if that makes any sense. It soothed my mind and relaxed me from the tip of my hair to the edge of my toes. The color black stopped most of my tingling, and made me less nervous. I was relaxed, so I was able to focus on my breathing, and singing from my diaphragm, not my throat. So really, every Monday is like getting a massage. When I see those black walls, I immediately feel peaceful and calm.

This paper exceeds grade-level standards. The writer offers an insightful take on the color black and definitely gets her point across in a natural way, not forced. There is a strong use of transitions, and although the story could have a stronger introduction, the conclusion sums up the story nicely. The writer develops the topic without being repetitive and her use of language keeps the reader interested. There is a controlled use of conventions.

Holistic Score: 3

The first time I moved into my new house I was very excited and happy. When I walked into my new house all of the walls were white or brown. Just the color of the downstairs were depressing. When I walked into my bedroom the color of the walls were white and I wasn't excited to live in this house anymore. While we kept moving things in I was feeling more and more depressed about my the color of the walls in my house and my bedroom because I love being in my room. After we were finished moving in we still had to unpack. When I got upstairs to do to my bedroom I thought if I had anything colorful to cover the walls of my bedroom with. While I was unpacking my things I was keeping a eye open for anything to put on my walls of my bedroom. After hours of unpacking I still didn't find anything to put on my walls. While I was helping my mom put away the dishes, it seemed that it wasn't just me that was feeling sad about the color of walls that we were living under. I asked my mom if the color of the the walls were making her feel depressed her too. My mom answered after thinking and she agreed that the color of the walls were depressing. My mom said that their was still stuff to unpack from the boxes. While we were unpacking very sadly we found things that we could hang on the walls of my bedroom and the downstairs to give our house some color to cheer up a little. Now my house is bright and colorful to live in.

This paper is adequate and meets grade-level standards. It is focused and developed, and the writer conveys ideas with details, keeping the reader interested at a minimal level. The paper just begins with a story; there is no introduction to set the stage; there is, however, an adequate conclusion. The writer uses transitions, but does not recognize it, as they are not off-set with commas. Word choice is bland or “vanilla”. Sentence structure is okay, but could be improved.

Holistic Score: 2

Red is a color that makes me happy because it changes my feelings right away.

First, of all because it's the color of my favorite soccer team's shirt. Also because it is the horizon's color at sunset.

Next, because I wear it a lot. It seems that always when I see it I get a big smile on my face that makes me feel joyful.

Finally, because it makes me let out the stress of my body when I feel tired and bored.

So, the color red makes me happy at any time.

This paper is inadequate. The writer's focus on red addresses the writing task, but there is not enough development in the overall paper. The organization is formulaic and, without supporting details to enhance each paragraph, it is simplistic. An introduction and conclusion are attempted at a minimal level. Voice is the strength of this paper. The writer has an awareness of sentence structure but falls short of using complete, coherent sentences. Grammar and usage is appropriate.

Holistic Score: 1

when i was little my favorite color was black which was not a good color because it made me feel angry and sad i was always mean and impolite to every body which made me even sadder. i never

liked to see anybody which made me feel even sadder and made them angry i never got along with my brothers and it made me even angrier and no one wanted to talk to me which made me angry i never wanted to go anywhere with my parents so they made me go then i started not to talk to anybody i didn't even eat some times started fighting with my brothers and i didn't want to go to church any more and i got mad for every thing i stopped washing my teeth then i changed my favorite color

This paper is inadequate. The writer only mentions the topic and includes irrelevant details. The paper has no organization; it is just a list of random thoughts and there are no transitions. You can tell he cares about the topic but does not convey it well. There is a misuse of grammar and sentence structure, and spelling errors impede meaning.