Alexander Elementary School
Martha, Angela, Kathy, and Roma

Monster Mania!
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A 6 Traits of Writing Activity for the Trait of Ideas

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Monster Mania

Goal: The students will understand the importance of providing enough details in order to create an accurate picture in the reader’s mind. This will reinforce the trait of Ideas.

Objective: The students will be able to use specific details to describe the characteristics of a monster.
Materials needed:

- Drawings of monsters-one for each group (these can be drawn by the same students, another class, younger students, an art class, etc.)
- Blank drawing paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Loose-leaf paper
Procedure:

1. Review the trait of Ideas focusing on vivid, descriptive details.
2. Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students.
3. Give each group a picture of a monster.
4. Direct the students to choose a scribe for each group.
5. Direct the students to look at their monster and brainstorm a list of descriptive details on a sheet of loose-leaf paper. Encourage the students to include size, shape, color, orientation, etc. Remind the students that they need to use specific details so that another group will be able to draw the same monster without seeing the original picture. Circulate and monitor the students’ progress.
6. After the groups finish brainstorming, ask them to give the monster a name and write the name on the top of their description. Now, collect the pictures of the monsters and the descriptions.
7. Mix the descriptions up and pass one to each group, making sure that no group receives their own description. Also, give each group a piece of blank drawing paper and crayons/colored pencils.
8. Direct each group to read over the description and choose one member to draw the monster for the group. Encourage the students to read the description carefully, while trying to visualize the picture of the monster. Remind the class that each member of the group needs to contribute ideas.

9. Circulate and monitor the students’ progress as they draw the monster.

10. After the groups are finished drawing the monster, collect the drawings and the descriptions.

11. Share each original drawing followed by the recreation. Ask the group who drew the second monster to explain which details were the most helpful. Have the group also give suggestions for improvements (what details do they wish they would have had?). Encourage the group who wrote the description for the drawing to make note of the feedback they receive.

12. Repeat step 11 until every group has shared their monster and description.

13. Discuss the importance of using specific, vivid details in order to improve the trait of Ideas.
Examples of Alexander's Monster Manias
All about Gunky Eyestawk

My Monster is a Monster that...has 3 eyestawks and 1 eye stawk by the limb of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} leg. My monster has eyegunk coming out of each eye. CALL THAT NOT GROSS! He has four arms and a different amount of fingers on each hand. He has three legs, he has two legs in the normal spots. And one leg in the middle. He has one face on the middle leg (foot)? He has one gray ear and one yellow ear. My monster comes from slimerville, NH My monster was born on July 17, 1965.
My monster is stronger than a bull, he likes to eat candy. He has four eyes, and long toes nails.
My monster is strong as a bus. He likes to eat cars. He has four eyes and long toe nails. My monster is as light as a shoe. He even has wings and he likes people if their nice to him. My Monster has four legs. He is as tail as a sky skraper and if you see him say hi what’s you name? He has one earing. He a tooth shaped ears. And he only comes out if it’s HALLOWEEN!! If you want me to prove it his shirt says Halloween rules! What does he look like, I know! I know he looks like a bee!
My monster is strong as a bus. He likes to eat cars. He has four eyes and long toe nails.
My monster has scary teeth. He is big! My monster has a round brown head. He has some fingers and he has toes. He has a little hair. He has 2 little pointed ears. He has 2 eyes. He is green. He has 2 legs and 2 arms. He has a little round swiggly nose. He has 2 little eyebrows. He has a weird swiggly body. He zig zag mouth.
Additional ideas:

1. Give the groups time to revise their descriptions improving the specific details.
2. Direct the students to use the list of specific details to write a paragraph(s) describing the monster.
3. Score the written paragraphs for the trait of Ideas and discuss.