

Student Rubric for Word Choice

- 6**
- I chose the right word(s) for the moment—many are memorable enough to highlight.
 - Strong verbs create vivid, moving pictures in the reader's mind.
 - Carefully chosen sensory details pull readers right into my experience.
 - You won't find clutter. Every word counts!

- 5**
- My words are clear. I found *my own way* to say things.
 - I used many strong verbs to add life and energy.
 - Sensory details make my descriptions vivid.
 - All words add to the message. I wouldn't cut anything.

- 4**
- My words are used correctly.
 - I used *some* strong verbs—as well as descriptive words.
 - I used sensory details—if they fit. And I didn't overdo it.
 - Wordiness and repetition are not problems.

- 3**
- I used too many general words: *nice, great, cool, neat, good*.
 - If you look hard, you might find a strong verb hiding in there.
 - I need more sensory details. OR . . . I used TOO many!
 - Parts are wordy—or I repeated certain words too many times.

- 2**
- I didn't really reach for the right words—or the best words.
 - I didn't use any ACTION verbs. I don't have much description either.
 - I didn't think about *sounds, feelings, smells, or tastes*.
 - Repetition is a problem. Sometimes I went on and on without saying anything new.

- 1**
- I wrote the first words that came into my head.
 - Getting *any* words on paper was hard for me.
 - I'm not sure readers can picture anything or even tell what I am trying to say.
 - I need help finding words that will let me say what I mean.