

# Trait: Ideas

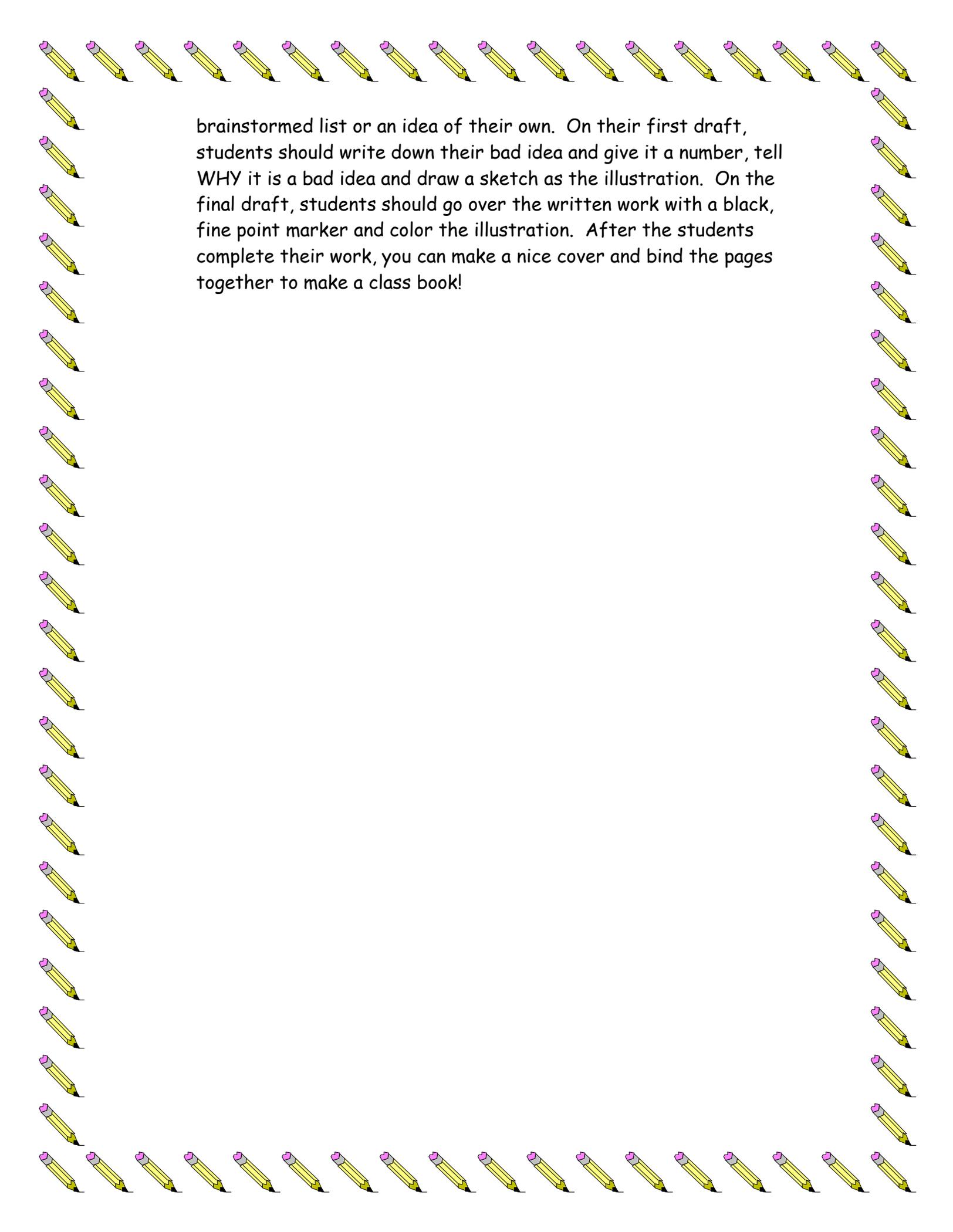
## Introduction Lesson Plan- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### The Book of Bad Ideas

(adapted from 6 + 1 Traits of Writing pg. 51-53)

What to do:

1. **Introduction:** Introduce the trait of Ideas and discuss this activity to help clarify what this trait means. Use pages 33-67 in 6 + 1 Traits of Writing, as well as other resources you have. Here is a quick summary of ideas:
  - Ideas make up the content of the piece
  - Ideas help the overall message of the piece be clear.
  - Topic=selecting an idea
  - Focus= narrowing the idea
  - Development= elaborating on the idea
  - Details= discovering the best information to convey the main idea
2. **Brainstorming:** Use the beginning of the book as a prompt: "Have you ever done something and then thought, 'Uh-oh, that was a bad idea?'...this is a collection of some of our most "brilliant" ideas that resulted in some VERY embarrassing moments." Begin reading the book- choosing just a few pages to share to help students gather an understanding for "bad ideas". Then, students should brainstorm their own ideas (this can be done individually first then shared with others or done as a whole class activity). When the students share their ideas, write them down on the board or chart paper.
3. **Questioning:** As the students share their bad ideas, be sure to ask WHY these are bad ideas. This will be helpful for their activity.
4. **Reading/Modeling:** Read aloud The Book of Bad Ideas. Make sure to show the students the wonderful illustrations and discuss why these are bad ideas. Add to the brainstorming list if any new "bad ideas" come up!
5. **Student Work:** Students will create their own Book of Bad Ideas. Use a graphic organizer so that the students can plan their page and writing. Students should choose their own bad idea from the



brainstormed list or an idea of their own. On their first draft, students should write down their bad idea and give it a number, tell WHY it is a bad idea and draw a sketch as the illustration. On the final draft, students should go over the written work with a black, fine point marker and color the illustration. After the students complete their work, you can make a nice cover and bind the pages together to make a class book!