

In Common: Effective Writing for All Students
Collection of All Student Work Samples, K-12

By The Vermont Writing Collaborative, with Student Achievement Partners and CCSSO

Fourth Grade
Range of Writing Informative / Explanatory
Writing Samples

File Name: I4R Best Friends

Informative/Explanatory

Grade 4

Range of Writing

Best Friends

“It’s not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both.”

Charlotte’s Web (p. 184)

The book Charlotte’s Web by E. B. White is a story about an endearing pig named Wilbur. He is desperately trying not to die. He meets a nice friend named Charlotte. She is a spider that weaves words into her web to save Wilbur from dying. She keeps weaving to make the Zuckermans believe that Wilbur is “Some Pig”, “Terrific”, “Radiant”, and “Humble”. Charlotte the spider proves to be both a good writer and a true friend to Wilbur.

When Charlotte writes she focuses day and night to make it right. For example, on Fair night down in the barn cellar all the animals were asleep except Charlotte. She was busy writing the word “Humble” in her web because it

described Wilbur perfectly. Wilbur is low to the ground and not proud of himself.

Charlotte was a good writer, no doubt about it but she was also a true friend to the little pig. Charlotte was one of the most caring friends you could have for a long time. One way she was caring was when Wilbur was tired of being terrific all day. Charlotte sang him a lullaby. Another example is that she calmed Wilbur down when he was scared. Wilbur was devastated when he found out he was going to die and Charlotte said, “You shall not die I shall save you”. She was so caring to Wilbur forever.

Charlotte was also a true friend, helping Wilbur when he was in trouble. For example in her web, “She neatly wrote the word Terrific.” She doubled the letters so that they would have the best effect. Another example of how Charlotte helped Wilbur is that “Charlotte wrote the word Radiant”. She knew it would make people think that Wilbur was radiant. One day “Neatly woven in block letters was the word “Some Pig”. Charlotte had woven it into her web. This was Charlotte’s plan to convince the Zuckermans that they did not want to kill Wilbur. Charlotte helped Wilbur alot when he was in trouble.

Charlotte was the best friend Wilbur ever had. Charlotte was both a true friend to Wilbur and a good writer. She made Wilbur the best known pig in the state!

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Revised and Edited for Student Use

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File Name: I4R Ecotourism

Informative/Explanatory

Grade 4

Range of Writing

It's vacation time!!! Rey and his family are working as ecotourist. Their job is looking after turtle eggs. Rey and his family are working with biologists. When Rey and a biologist were on "turtle patrol" Rey found a nest and brought the eggs that were in it back to camp.

Ecotourism can have bad and good effects. In keeping the balance ecotourism is described as something more complicated than it actually is. Ecotourism is really when tourists go to a country to see its wildlife. Ecotourism can help people understand wildlife but it can also harm it. This is a serious problem but there are some solutions.

Ecotourism can really ruin things. If ecotourists disturb wildlife they might wreck the ecosystem. Ecotourism can destroy plants and natural habitats. For example ecotourists might trample plants and/or scare animals and/or leave garbage everywhere. Ecotourist need lodging (Hotels and resorts) and bathrooms. These harm the environment by polluting water and destroying forests which the ecotourists would otherwise be looking at. Generally ecotourism is supposed to focus on personal growth and environmental responsibility, but mostly it doesn't.

But there is some hope. If everybody puts their heads together we can think up some ways to improve ecotourism, environmentally. All we really need is a few ideas to "spark" the brain storm, so here they are.

One thing we could do is just prevent ecotourism altogether. But then people might forget how to value and treat nature respectfully. Another thing we could do is set some lower limits than there are at the moment for ecotourism. Something else we could do is decrease the number of ecotourists to a small average.

Another good solution is to make pathways and trams and things to keep ecotourists at a distance from wildlife. One more thing we can do to improve ecotourism is to have a class on how to treat the flora and fauna. Those are just 4 things we could do to improve ecotourism.

I think those are all the "sparks" we need. I hope these "sparks" light up peoples understanding of ecotourism.

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