

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

Kindergarten
On-Demand Informative / Explanatory
Writing Samples

Grade K, Prompt for Informative/Explanatory Writing Common Core Standard W.CCR.2

Task directions

Water Conservation

What can you do to save water?

Optional Introduction:

- Watch the short video on water conservation on YouTube:
The Adventures of EcoRilla Episode 1 - EcoWater Canada
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ex1ZuKfw64
- Discuss this question briefly with your class: *Why is it important to save water?*

The Prompt:

- Use puppets or recruit some older students to perform the Reader's Theatre:
Water Wise - All About Water Conservation.
- After listening to the Reader's Theatre, lead a short class discussion on the question: "What can you do to save water?" Use the discussion to build a basic understanding of at least a few of the ways the students could save water.
- Pose the focusing question again and give the following directions:
 1. "What can you do to save water? Turn and talk to a partner about what you could do." *Allow about 3 minutes for students to discuss their choices.*
 2. "Now use this paper to draw a picture of some things you could do to save water. I will help you write words under your picture to tell more about your choices."

Additional Instructions/Clarifications

- Paper may be lined or unlined. Use your typical classroom writing process to support students in completing the writing prompt. The piece should represent first draft writing (done in a single sitting).
- The response should include a picture and whatever sentences, words, or letters the child can add. An adult may assist with sounding out or spelling words and/or transcribe the child's words if desired. Dictation is permitted.
- Please distinguish the child's independent production from words or letters produced with adult help by **underlining any part of the writing done with teacher support**. The writing sample will be most useful to other teachers if it is easy to tell where help was given.
- We understand that, especially in the fall, most Kindergartners have had limited experience with writing.

Water Wise
All About Water Conservation
A Super Science Script
Written and Developed by Lisa Blau

Water Expert #1 - Good morning! We are here to tell you all about the earth's most precious resource...

All - WATER!

Water Expert #2 - Every form of life needs water in order to live.

Water Expert #4 - A tiny fish needs water...

Water Expert #5 - A tall tree needs water...

Water Expert #3 - Everyone needs...

All - WATER!

Water Expert #2 - People need water to drink because our bodies need water to stay healthy.

Water Expert #3 - We also need water to make the crops grow so that we have food to eat.

Water Expert #4 - People use water for taking baths, brushing their teeth, and washing their clothes.

Water Expert #1 - Yes, everyone needs water.

Water Expert #2 - We know that water is precious so we must find ways to save all the water that we can.

Water Expert #3 - Now, you might be thinking...

Water Expert #5 - But, I'm just a kid. What can I do to save water?

Water Expert #4 - Well, we're here to tell you...

All - PLENTY!

Water Expert #1 - If you turn off the running water when you brush your teeth...

All - You can save 35 gallons of water in one week!

Water Expert #3 - If you take a shorter shower...

All - You can save 75 gallons of water in one week!

Water Expert #3 - You can help Mom or Dad fix leaky faucets and put water savers in your toilets.

Water Expert #5 - A plastic bottle filled with pebbles will do the job!

Water Expert #4 - Never play in sprinklers if your town is having a water shortage.

Water Expert #1 - Sure, it's tons of fun...

Water Expert #2 - You will use over 10 gallons of water in only one minute!

Water Expert #3 - By trying some of these tricks, you and your family can help save lots of water.

Water Expert #4 - Water is precious. What can you do to help save water?

Water Expert #1 - Make sure that the faucet is turned off all the way. Don't leave it dripping...

Water Expert #2 - Every drop counts you know!

Water Expert #3 - Don't use more water than you really need. You really don't need to fill your bathtub up all the way when you take a bath.

Water Expert #4 - You should use a broom...not the hose, to clean a driveway or sidewalk.

Water Expert #5 - And how many of you like to help out by washing the car? Well, be sure to save water when you wash the car.

Water Expert #2 - It's easy...just use a bucket to wash the car, and only use the hose to rinse it off.

All - We hope that you will be water wise and save lots of water. We know you can do it!

Water Expert #1 - The End.

From Super Science, by Lisa Blau
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File Name: IKFP Water

Informative/Explanatory

Kindergarten, Fall

On-Demand Writing, Uniform Prompt

Water

I WOT US AS WODR MUC WODR

**Names what he/she is
writing about**

In this Kindergarten piece, written in the fall, the student uses a combination of drawing and writing to inform the reader about a topic explored through a Reader’s Theatre presentation and a short video. The topic of the student piece (*“I WOT US AS WODR MUC WODR”*) is stated in writing. The repeated word (*“WODR”*) is not an unusual error at this grade level and could be revised if the piece went through the full writing process. **The drawing** that accompanies the original text **supplies** detailed **information** on how to save water. The illustrations show the student saving water in many ways, such as taking shorter showers and saving excess water for pets and plants. Kindergarteners may use phonetic spelling, drawing, and dictation to express their thoughts in writing. This student’s piece clearly draws on the sources provided to inform the reader about the topic. This developmentally appropriate “combination writing” provides a valuable foundation for the thought process that underlies this text type and can be built upon in later years.

File Name: IKFP Water

Informative/Explanatory

Kindergarten, Fall

Revised and Edited for Student Use

Water

I won't use as much water.

File Name: IKFP Water

Informative/Explanatory

Kindergarten, Fall

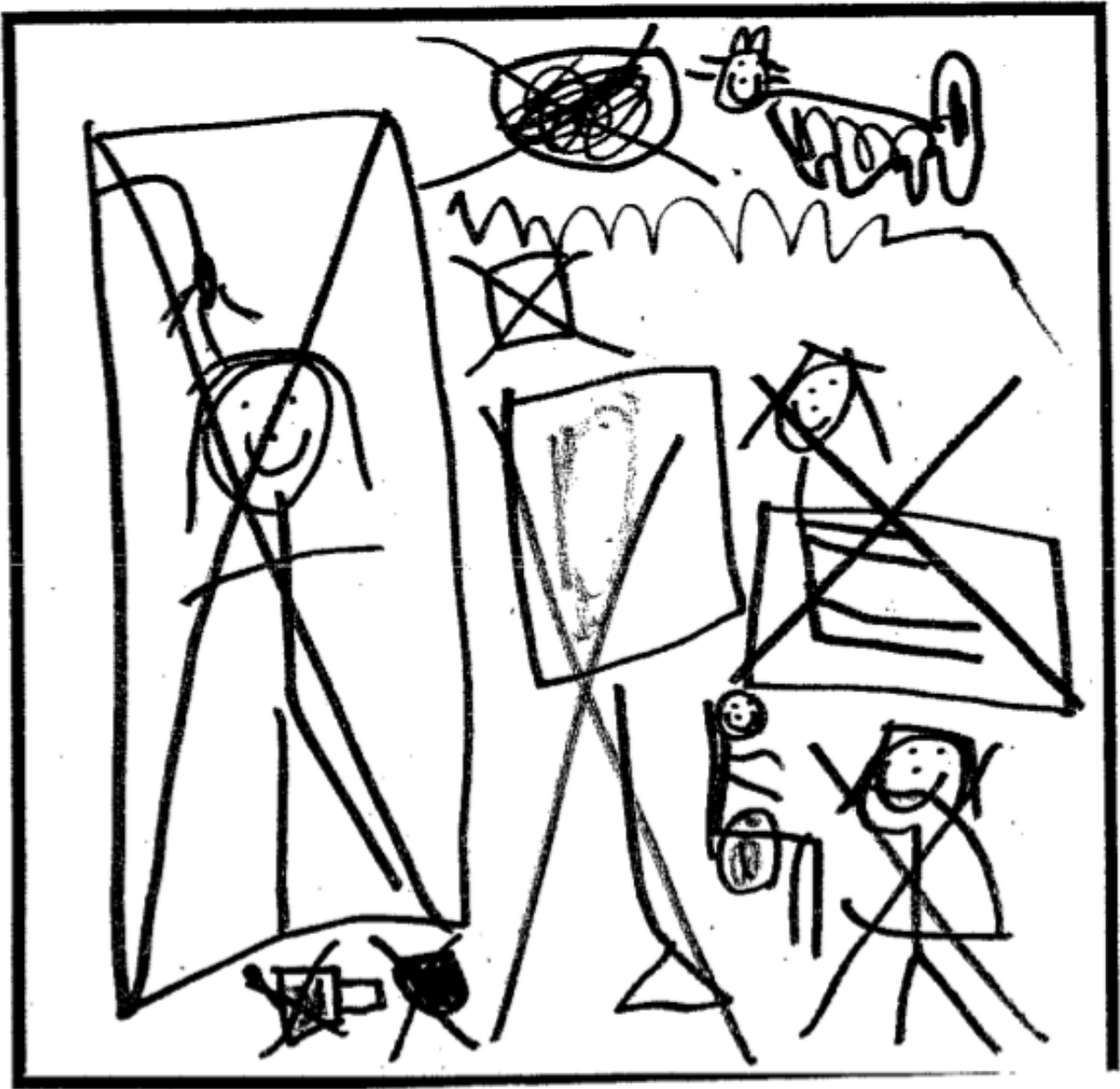
On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

Water

I WOT US AS WODR MUC WODR

WVOT US AS WODR MUC

WODR



File Name: IKSP Saving Water

Informative/Explanatory

Kindergarten, Spring

On-Demand Writing, Uniform Prompt

Saving Water

What can you do to save water?

I am taking a baf Not all faLL.

I amsHuting off the wotr

I am filing the bucit up Not too Hiy

Although this piece would have been stronger had the student named the topic herself, the question posed clearly introduces the topic.

**Supplies some information
about the topic**

In this Kindergarten piece, written in the spring, the topic (*What can you do to save water?*) is made clear by the question the teacher has posed, and the student uses words and pictures to supply some information about the topic. Although the information is personalized (“*I am...*”), the student has clearly drawn three specific details from the sources provided to inform the reader about how she will save water. Both words and illustrations show a solid understanding of the content

File Name: IKSP Saving Water

Informative/Explanatory

Kindergarten, Spring

Revised and Edited for Student Use

Saving Water

What can you do to save water?

I am taking a bath. It is not all full.

I am shutting off the water.

I am filling the bucket up, not too high.

File Name: IKSP Saving Water

Informative/Explanatory

Kindergarten, Spring

On-Demand Writing, Uniform Prompt

Saving Water

What can you do to save water?

I am taking a baf Not all faLL.

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I am filing the bucit up Not too Hiy

What can you do to save water?

I am taking a
bath not all full.

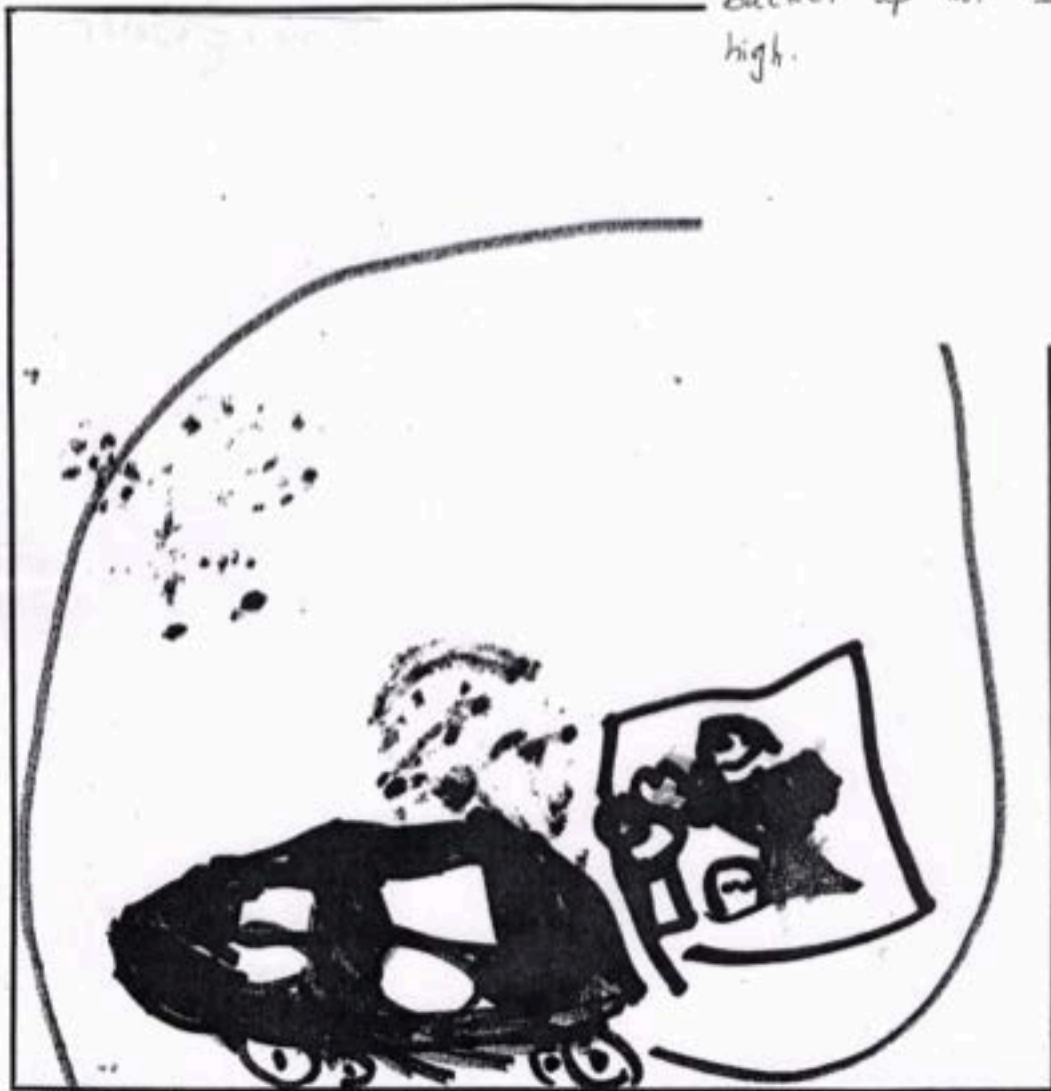


I am taking a
bat not all full.



I am SHUTTING off the
water

I am filling the
bucket up not too
high.



I am filling the b
ucket up ~~not~~ too
high