

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

Second Grade
Range of Writing - Narrative Writing
Writing Samples

File Name: N2R The Adventure into the Abandoned Warehouse

Narrative

Grade 2

Range of Writing

The Adventure into the Abandoned Warehouse

Once there was an abandoned warehouse that was enormous. You could hear growling if you came near.

Introduces the main character and setting to provide some context for understanding the events that follow

There was this kid named Clay who has blue eyes and brown hair and he's always ready for an adventure. He is 8 years old.

One day, Clay and his younger brothers Bobby and George wanted to get into the abandoned warehouse that they passed by one day while walking. They wanted to find out what was making all that noise. All of them were scared and excited.

Recounts a well-elaborated short sequence of events

But the second time they got there, there were guards and this time they were really scared so they left. They came there again and the guards were still there. They thought they would never get in.

Includes details to describe feelings

Uses temporal words to signal event order

Then, Clay had an idea. “How about we go home and get a distraction?” They decided that George and Bobby would yell at the guards and say, “Hey Buddy!” Then they would run around the abandoned warehouse and go in the door and meet Clay. When they got back, the distraction was ready. They were successful. So, when they got in, they looked until they heard it. They heard a growl. “Let’s go,” said, Bobby and George.

Includes details to describe thoughts

Includes details to describe actions

They said, “OK.” They got there and they heard it. They could not see it and then they saw it, it was a puppy! They were so happy.

Provides a sense of closure

In this second-grade narrative, the writer describes a short series of connected events that begins when a group of friends hears growling in an abandoned warehouse. This piece is rich in detail. The writer describes the characters’ feelings (“*All of them were scared and excited*”), thoughts (“*Then, Clay had an idea.*”), and actions (“*So, when they got in, they looked until they heard it.*”). The discovery that the growling came from a puppy wraps up the story logically and provides a sense of closure. Like many second-grade narratives, this story ends a bit abruptly and leaves the reader with unanswered questions. Creating a satisfying ending is a difficult skill, often not mastered in the primary grades.

File Name: N2R The Adventure into the Abandoned Warehouse

Narrative

Grade 2

Revised and Edited for Student Use

The Adventure into the Abandoned Warehouse

Once there was an abandoned warehouse that was enormous. You could hear growling if you came near. Close to the warehouse lived a kid named Clay who had blue eyes and brown hair and was always ready for an adventure. He was 8 years old.

Clay and his younger brothers, Bobby and George, wanted to get into the abandoned warehouse that they had passed by one day while walking. They wanted to find out what was making all that noise. All of them were scared and excited.

But the second time they got there, there were guards. This time, they were really scared, so they left. Then they went there again and the guards were still there. They thought they would never get in!

Then Clay had an idea. “How about we go home and get a distraction?” They decided that George and Bobby would yell at the guards and say, “Hey, buddy!” Then they would run around the abandoned warehouse and go in the door and meet Clay. When they got back, the distraction was ready. They were successful.

When they got in, they looked until they heard it. They heard a growl. "Let's go," said Bobby and George. They said, "OK." They got there, and they heard it again, but they could not see anything. And then they saw it. It was a puppy! They were so happy.

File Name: N2R The Adventure into the Abandoned Warehouse

Narrative

Grade 2

Range of Writing

The Adventure into the Abandoned Warehouse

Once there was an abandoned warehouse that was enormous. You could hear growling if you came near.

There was this kid named Clay who has blue eyes and brown hair and he's always ready for an adventure. He is 8 years old.

One day, Clay and his younger brothers Bobby and George wanted to get into the abandoned warehouse that they passed by one day while walking. They wanted to find out what was making all that noise. All of them were scared and excited.

But the second time they got there, there were guards and this time they were really scared so they left. They came there again and the guards were still there. They thought they would never get in.

Then, Clay had an idea. "How about we go home and get a distraction?" They decided that George and Bobby would yell at the guards and say, "Hey Buddy!" Then they would run around the abandoned

warehouse and go in the door and meet Clay. When they got back, the distraction was ready. They were successful. So, when they got in, they looked until they heard it. They heard a growl. "Let's go," said, Bobby and George.

They said, "OK." They got there and they heard it. They could not see it and then they saw it, it was a puppy! They were so happy.

File Name: N2R Airplane Trouble

Narrative

Grade 2

Range of Writing

**Recounts a short
sequence of events**

Airplane Trouble

Once upon a time there was a man named Bob. He was 88. And his pet parrot

named Billy. He was 4 years old. They lived in New York. One day Bob and

Billy were going to VA. He was packing his bags to go on the Airplane. And

then he remembered his flight left at 8:00. And it was 7:50. So he got his stuff in

the car and drove there. When they got there the plane left. "We missed out

flight" said Bob. Bob was mad. They went in to the Airport to see if there was a

different plane. There was not any other plane. "Why don't we drive a car" said

Bob. "Ok" said Billy. So they went to the car and drove.

**Includes details
to describe
actions**

**Includes details
to describe
thoughts**

**Includes details
to describe
feelings**

This imaginative second-grade narrative was written independently in response to a picture. The writer describes a short series of connected events surrounding a trip to the airport. This story revolves around a central problem (*"We missed out flight"*). Details that describe actions (*"He was packing his bags"*), feelings (*"Bob was mad"*), and thoughts (*"And then he remembered his flight left at 8:00."*) advance the plot and show the reactions of characters to the situation. Temporal words (*"one day"*, *"and then"*, *"when"*) signal the order of events clearly. The story ends when the main characters decide to drive instead, providing the reader with a sense of closure.

File Name: N2R Airplane Trouble

Narrative

Grade 2

Revised and Edited for Student Use

Airplane Trouble

Once upon a time there was a man named Bob. He was 88. His pet parrot named Billy was 4 years old. They lived in New York. One day, Bob and Billy were going to VA. He was packing his bags to go on the airplane. Then he remembered his flight left at 8:00. And it was 7:50! So he got his stuff in the car and drove there. When they got there the plane had left. "We missed out flight!" said Bob. Bob was mad. They went in to the airport to see if there was a different plane. There wasn't any other plane. "Why don't we drive a car?" said Bob. "O.K.," said Billy. So they went to the car and drove.

File Name: N2R Airplane Trouble

Narrative

Grade 2

Range of Writing

Airplane Trouble

Once upon a time there was a man named Bob. He was 88. And his pet parrot named Billy. He was 4 years old. They lived in New York. One day Bob and Billy were going to VA. He was packing his bags to go on the Airplane. And then he remembered his flight left at 8:00. And it was 7:50. So he got his stuff in the car and drove there. When they got there the plane left. "We missed out flight" said Bob. Bob was mad. They went in to the Airport to see if there was a different plane. There wasnt any other plane. "Why don't we drive a car" said Bob. "Ok" said Billy. So they went to the car and drove.

File Name: N2R My Dog

Narrative

Grade 2

Range of Writing

Response to Text: Freckle Juice

We listened to the book Freckle Juice by Jude Blume. “Andrew arcus wanted Freckles.” Write about a time that you really wanted something and what you did to make that happen.

My Dog

One time I relly wanted a dog. In fact evry time I blew out a candle I wished for a dog. But my mom and dad would not let me becuase thay thought it would be to much work. But then thay changed thare mind so we started to look on line for a puppy and we found one. She came in a big truck. we brought her home. and evry morning I get up erly and take her out and feed her.

Includes details to describe thoughts and feelings

Includes details to describe actions

Uses temporal words to signal event order

Provides a sense of closure

This independent second-grade narrative was part of a literature study. The writer recounts a well-elaborated, short sequence of events leading to the arrival of a new puppy. Temporal words and phrases (“every time”, “then”, “started”, “every morning”) signal event order; the story flows naturally from the point of wishing for a puppy to the puppy’s arrival. Details connect the characters’ thoughts and feelings with actions (“evry time I blew out a candle I wished for a dog”, “my mom and dad would not let me becuase thay thought it would be to much work”, “But then thay changed thare mind so we started to look on line for a puppy”), creating believable characters and events. The last line, describing life with the new puppy, provides a sense of closure.

File Name: N2R My Dog

Narrative

Grade 2

Revised and Edited for Student Use

Response to Text: Freckle Juice

We listened to the book Freckle Juice by Jude Blume. “Andrew arcus wanted Freckles.” Write about a time that you really wanted something and what you did to make that happen.

My Dog

One time I really wanted a dog. In fact, every time I blew out a candle, I wished for a dog. But my mom and dad would not let me get one because they thought it would be too much work. But then they changed their minds, so we started to look online for a puppy, and we found one. She came in a big truck. We brought her home and every morning I get up early and take her out and feed her.

File Name: N2R My Dog

Narrative

Grade 2

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My Dog

One time I relly wanted a dog. In fact evry time I blew out a candle I wished for a dog. But my mom and dad would not let me becuase thay thought it would be to much work. But then thay changed thare mind so we started to look on line for a puppy and we found one. She came in a big truck. we brought her home. and evry morning I get up erly and take her out and feed her.