

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

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

**Third Grade**  
**Range of Writing - Narrative Writing**  
**Writing Samples**

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**File Name: N3R My Lost Kittens**

**Narrative**

**Grade 3**

**Range of Writing**

### **My Lost Kittens**

One sunny day my mom and I took our kittens for a walk around our house. The kittens were very excited because it was their first time. My kittens names are Flounder and Aerial. Aerial is a girl and Flounder is a boy with a circle on his side. They are both the color yellow and white. When we took the kittens outside we had to be very careful so they would not get loose. Then a car drove by. It scared them and they ran. Their harnesses got loose and they went into the woods. We went inside to put away the harnesses and the leashes. Then we went back outside to look for them in the woods. We looked left and right but we couldn't find them. We went back home to make signs to put up that said: LOST KITTENS yellow and white call 569-9823. We were very sad. After a few mouths still no one could find them. But when we were looking for them the kittens were look for us they really wanted to find their way home. The kitten aske a cat named Shadow for help. Shadow said they lived next door but they were not home the were on vacation. Shadow brought them inside to Theresa. When Theresa saw them she knew who they lived with. Theresa took care of them until we came home she called us and siad "I have a surprise for you!!" I thought that she had found our kittens. When we

**Establishes a situation and introduces a narrator and characters**

**Uses descriptions of actions and feelings to show the response of characters to situations.**

**Uses temporal words and phrases to signal event order**

**Uses dialogue and descriptions of thoughts to develop events**

went over to her house we followed her up to the bedroom and saw a cage when she opened the door. We saw our kittens in it. We were so happy that we went right over and unlocked it. The kittens ran out of the cage and over to us. We took them home and thanked Theresa. We were very happy to see them. And they were happy to us too.

**Provides a sense of closure**

This third-grade narrative begins by introducing the main characters (*“my mom and I took our kittens...”*) and establishing a situation (*“we took the kittens outside”*). The story revolves around a central problem, the kittens are lost, and organizes a sequence of events that unfolds naturally toward the resolution of the problem—when the kittens are returned. Although the story can be a bit confusing in spots (*“Shadow said they lived next door but they were not home the were on vacation”*), temporal word and phrases (*“then”, “After a few mouths”, “when”*) signal event order and move the reader through the story.

This young writer is beginning to experiment effectively with techniques like dialogue (*“I have a surprise for you!!”*), as well as descriptions of thoughts (*“I thought that she had found our kittens.”*), feelings (*“We were very sad”*) and actions (*“We went back home to make signs.”*) to develop the events in the story. The last lines provide a sense of closure (*“We were very happy to see them. And they were happy to [see] us too.”*).

**File Name: N3R My Lost Kittens**

**Narrative**

**Grade 3**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### **My Lost Kittens**

One sunny day, my mom and I took our kittens for a walk around our house. The kittens were very excited because it was their first time. My kittens' names are Flounder and Aerial. Aerial is a girl and Flounder is a boy with a circle on his side. They are both the colors yellow and white. When we took the kittens outside, we had to be very careful so they would not get loose. Then a car drove by. It scared them and they ran. Their harnesses got loose and they went into the woods. We went inside to put away the harnesses and the leashes. Then we went back outside to look for them in the woods. We looked left and right, but we couldn't find them. We went back home to make signs to put up that said: LOST KITTENS: yellow and white, call 569-9823. We were very sad.

After a few months, still no one could find them. But, when we were looking for them, the kittens were looking for us! They really wanted to find their way home. The kitten asked a cat named Shadow for help. Shadow said, "Your family lives next door, but they are not home they are on vacation." Shadow brought them inside to Theresa. When Theresa saw them, she knew who they lived with. Theresa took care of them until we came home. She called us and said, "I have a surprise for you!!" I thought that she had found our kittens!

When we went over to her house, we followed her up to the bedroom and saw a cage. When she opened the door, we saw our kittens in it. We were so happy that we went right over and unlocked it. The kittens ran out of the cage and over to us. We took them home and thanked Theresa. We were very happy to see them, and they were happy to see us too!

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**Narrative**

**Grade 3**

**Range of Writing**

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One sunny day my mom and I took our kittens for a walk around our house. The kittens were very excited because it was their first time. My kittens names are Flounder and Aerial. Aerial is a girl and Flounder is a boy with a circle on his side. They are both the color yellow and white. When we took the kittens outside we had to be very careful so they would not get loose. Then a car drove by. It scared them and they ran. Their harnesses got loose and they went into the woods. We went inside to put away the harnesses and the leashes. Then we went back outside to look for them in the woods. We looked left and right but we couldn't find them. We went back home to make signs to put up that said: LOST KITTENS yellow and white call 569-9823. We were very sad. After a few mouths still no one could find them. But when we were looking for them the kittens were look for us they really wanted to find their way home. The kitten aske a cat named Shadow for help. Shadow said they lived next door but they were not home the were on vacation. Shadow brought them inside to Theresa. When Theresa saw them she knew who they lived with. Theresa took care of them until we came home she called us and siad "I have a surprise for you!!" I thought that she had found our kittens. When we

went over to her house we followed her up to the bedroom and saw a cage when she opened the door. We saw our kittens in it. We were so happy that we went right over and unlocked it. The kittens ran out of the cage and over to us. We took them home and thanked Theresa. We were very happy to see them. And they were happy to us too.

**File Name: N3R The Family Who Traveled West**

**Narrative**

**Grade 3**

**Range of Writing**

**Establishes a situation and introduces characters**

The Family Who Traveled West

Once upon a time there was a pioneer family that was moving west. They were moving west because they wanted to find more gold. They had to gather their livestock. They used horses. They packed pots and pans, food and drinks. The family was traveling from Massachusetts to Oregon. They started to go. Anna their little girl said “I wish something would happen” and it did. They came upon Indians. The Indians were nice enough to let them go past. A few days later they came upon Oregon. “Ya” evryone shouted. Ma said “lets unpack and dig for gold”. Pa said, After we dig for gold, let’s build a farm to keep our livestock in and to live in”. They lived hapily ever after.

**Uses descriptions of actions to develop events**

**Uses dialogue and temporal words and phrases to signal event order**

**Uses dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop events or show the response of characters to situations**

**Provides a sense of closure**

Although brief, this third-grade narrative—written as part of a unit on westward expansion—quickly establishes a situation and a series of events that unfolds naturally. The reader comes to understand events through the character’s actions (“*They packed pots and pans, food and drinks*”) and reactions (“*‘Ya’ evryone shouted*”). The writer uses dialogue effectively to advance the plot. Although it may sound trite to adults, the last line leaves the reader with a sense of closure.



**File Name: N3R The Family Who Traveled West**

**Narrative**

**Grade 3**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### The Family Who Traveled West

Once upon a time there was a pioneer family that was moving west. The members of the family were moving west because they wanted to find more gold. They had to gather their livestock. They used horses. They packed pots and pans, food and drinks. The family was travelling from Massachusetts to Oregon. They started to go. Anna, the little girl, said, "I wish something would happen," and it did. They came upon Indians. The Indians were nice enough to let them go past. A few days later, the family came upon Oregon. "Yeah!" everyone shouted. Ma said, "Let's unpack and dig for gold." Pa said, "After we dig for gold, let's build a farm to keep our livestock in and to live in." They lived happily ever after.

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