

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
On Demand Writing - Narrative Writing
Writing Samples

File Name: N4P The Haunted House

Narrative

Grade 4

On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

The Huanted House

There once was a dog who roamed an alley with another dog. That dog's name was Max. The other dog's name was Rocky. Max and Rockey were brother and sister, although the look nothing alike. In another alley not far from Max and Rocky's there was a dog and a cat who lived together in that alley. The dog's name was Surgar and the cat's name was shantell. One day they all met behind a trachcan and became best buds.

Introduces main characters

One day while all the friends were out walking in the street and then Shantell(the cat) spotted a ghost flying around in a house and took off running to go see the ghost. Then all the dogs took off afterer her. When the dogs finaly cought up to Shantell they were all deep in the huanted house. Max and Surgar started to shake. Rocky and Shantell started to quake. Then a loud Boom came from the floor above them. After, Max got a brillent idea. They should sneak up on the monsters and attack them.

Orients the reader by establishing a situation

Uses a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events

Finally all four animals were ready to put their maniecle plan into action. Shantell tip-toed up the mantel while Max and Surgar went up the back stairs. Which left Rockey creeping up the front stairs. When they all were ready to attack the monsters they heard music. The went alot like this "Shake, Shake shake dem bones now!" The

Uses concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey events precisely

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

friends were confused but quickly got back on track. Shantell gave the ready signal and they all jumped up.

They were surprized to see what they saw. They saw about a dozen monsters doing the monster mash. One of the vampires said “Come in dogs and cats. Why don’t you dance with us. So Max, Rocky, Surgar and Shantell danced with the monsters.”

Provides a conclusion that follows from the narrated events

The first paragraph of this fourth-grade narrative introduces the four main characters and the relationship between them. In the second paragraph, the writer sets up the story, establishing an event (the ghost chase) that brings the characters into the haunted house, where most of the story takes place. The sequence of events unfolds naturally and the writer develops these events with concrete, sensory details (*“they heard music. The went alot like this”*), dialogue (*“Why don’t you dance with us”*), and descriptions of thoughts, actions, and feelings (*“they were surprized”*). Transitional words (*“one day”, “then”, “after”, “finally”*) manage the sequence of events. The story comes to a satisfying conclusion, which is developed over the course of the last paragraph.

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Narrative

Grade 4

Revised and Edited for Student Use

The Haunted House

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One day while all the friends were out walking in the street, Shantell spotted a ghost flying around in a house and took off running to go see the ghost. Then all the dogs took off after her. When the dogs finally caught up to Shantell, they were all deep in the haunted house. Max and Sugar started to shake. Rocky and Shantell started to quake. Then a loud "boom" came from the floor above them. After, Max got a brilliant idea: they should sneak up on the monsters and attack them.

Finally, all four animals were ready to put their maniacal plan into action. Shantell tiptoed up the mantel while Max and Sugar went up the back stairs, which left Rocky to creep up the front stairs. When they all were ready to attack the monsters, they heard music. The music sounded a lot like this: "Shake, shake, shake dem bones now!"

The friends were confused but quickly got back on track. Shantell gave the ready signal, and they all jumped up.

They were surprised to see what they saw. They saw about a dozen monsters doing the Monster Mash. One of the vampires said, "Come in, dogs and cats. Why don't you dance with us?" So Max, Rocky, Sugar, and Shantell danced with the monsters.

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Grade 4

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One day while all the friends were out walking in the street and then Shantell(the cat) spotted a ghost flying around in a house and took off running to go see the ghost. Then all the dogs took off after her. When the dogs finally caught up to Shantell they were all deep in the haunted house. Max and Sargar started to shake. Rocky and Shantell started to quake. Then a loud Boom came from the floor above them. After, Max got a brilliant idea. They should sneak up on the monsters and attack them.

Finally all four animals were ready to put their maniac plan into action. Shantell tip-toed up the mantel while Max and Sargar went up the back stairs. Which left Rocky creeping up the front stairs. When they all were ready to attack the monsters they heard music. They went a lot like this "Shake, Shake shake dem bones now!" The

friends were confused but quickly got back on track. Shantell gave the ready signal and they all jumped up.

They were surprized to see what they saw. They saw about a dozen monsters doing the monster mash. One of the vampires said "Come in dogs and cats. Why don't you dance with us. So Max, Rocky, Surgar and Shantell danced with the monsters."