

***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 - Narrative Writing  
Writing Samples

---

**File Name: N4R Finding Rosalita**

**Narrative**

**Grade 4**

**Range of Writing**

### Finding Rosalita

It was Sunday. My family and I were in France. I was as happy as a b  
 We were driving along the road when my Daddy stopped the car. He told my  
 brother and sister to get out of the car to see what the furry lump on the side of  
 the road was. They got out of the car. 10 seconds later, they got back in the car  
 with a very small kitten in their hands. She was about the size of a very, very,  
 very, very small baby bottle. My stomach went into my throat when I saw it  
 actually was a kitten. She was meowing as loud as a fog horn. It was so horrible  
 I couldn't think. Mreow. I felt horrible. I knew that I hadn't done anything bad  
 her, but I just couldn't help it. She was so cold. I was worried. Her claws were  
 sharp as sewing needles being pricked into your skin. I shuddered. She had crus  
 over her eyes, from infections, that looked like they hurt. We were headed into  
 the village. Madame Sanz was there. We asked her what to do. I was afraid that  
 she wouldn't have any advice. Thankfully, she told us what to do. She told us to  
 boil rose petals in water 'till they were warm and wet. Then we should pour them  
 into a bowl with some water and keep on rubbing then over her eyes. After that,  
 we decided to call the little kitten, Rosalita. We also call her other things that

**Orients the reader by  
 establishing a situation and  
 introducing a narrator and  
 characters**

**Uses description to  
 develop events and  
 show the responses  
 of characters to  
 situations**

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

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

**Provides a conclusion  
that follows from the  
narrated events**

sound like Rosalita, but I won't mention that. We prayed. Luckily, she is still with us now. Hopefully, She will be with us much, much, much, much longer.

In this fourth-grade narrative, the writer describes an experience using effective techniques, descriptive details, and a clear event sequence that unfolds naturally. Descriptions of actions (“*I shuddered*”), feelings (“*I felt horrible*”), and thoughts (“*I knew I hadn't done anything bad to her, but I just couldn't help it*”) help the reader identify with the narrator. Sensory details (“*She had crusts over her eyes*”) add to our understanding of the situation and paint a vivid picture of the experience. The writer controls the sequence of events with transitional words and phrases and ends with a concluding reflection that is clearly connected to the narrated experience.

**File Name: N4R Finding Rosalita**

**Narrative**

**Grade 4**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### Finding Rosalita

It was Sunday. My family and I were in France. I was as happy as a bee. We were driving along the road when my daddy stopped the car. He told my brother and sister to get out of the car to see what the furry lump on the side of the road was. They got out of the car. Ten seconds later, they got back in the car with a very small kitten in their hands. She was about the size of a very, very, very, very small baby bottle.

My stomach went into my throat when I saw it actually was a kitten. She was meowing as loud as a foghorn. It was so horrible, I couldn't think. *Mreow*. I felt horrible. I knew that I hadn't done anything bad to her, but I just couldn't help it. She was so cold. I was worried. Her claws were as sharp as sewing needles being pricked into your skin. I shuddered. She had crusts over her eyes, from infections, that looked like they hurt.

We were headed into the village. Madame Sanz was there. We asked her what to do. I was afraid that she wouldn't have any advice. Thankfully, she told us what to do. She told us to boil rose petals in water till they were warm and wet. Then we should pour them into a bowl with some water and keep on rubbing them over the kitten's eyes.

After that, we decided to call the little kitten Rosalita. We also call her other things that sound like Rosalita, but I won't mention that. We prayed. Luckily, she is still with us now. Hopefully, she will be with us much, much, much, much longer.

**File Name: N4R Finding Rosalita**

**Narrative**

**Grade 4**

**Range of Writing**

### Finding Rosalita

It was Sunday. My family and I were in France. I was as happy as a bee. We were driving along the road when my Daddy stopped the car. He told my brother and sister to get out of the car to see what the furry lump on the side of the road was. They got out of the car. 10 seconds later, they got back in the car with a very small kitten in their hands. She was about the size of a very, very, very, very small baby bottle. My stomach went into my throat when I saw it actually was a kitten. She was meowing as loud as a fog horn. It was so horrible, I couldn't think. Mreow. I felt horrible. I knew that I hadn't done anything bad to her, but I just couldn't help it. She was so cold. I was worried. Her claws were as sharp as sewing needles being pricked into your skin. I shuddered. She had crusts over her eyes, from infections, that looked like they hurt. We were headed into the village. Madame Sanz was there. We asked her what to do. I was afraid that she wouldn't have any advice. Thankfully, she told us what to do. She told us to boil rose petals in water 'till they were warm and wet. Then we should pour them into a bowl with some water and keep on rubbing then over her eyes. After that, we decided to call the little kitten, **Rosalita**. We also call her other things that sound like **Rosalita**, but I won't mention that. We prayed. Luckily, she is still with us now. Hopefully, She will be with us much, much, much, much longer.

**File Name: N5R Frustration**