

4th Grade Student Writing Samples

The following are two 4th Grade student writing samples – one narrative writing and one expository writing. The prompts to which students are responding are provided below. These students were given approximately 55 minutes to write. These have been typed for ease of reading. These samples are Copyright 2007 by Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State of Washington, and available online, along with several other student samples, at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/curriculuminstruct/writing/annotations/4gradAnnotations.aspx>

Narrative Writing Prompt:

The Gate

You discover a gate that you have never seen before. On the ground next to the gate, you find a key. In several paragraphs, write a story telling what happens.

The Gate

“I Hate you!” said Bologna, Tanya Hanson’s brother. “I wish you were in another dimension!” he went on. Tanya didn’t really care as much as him. It was Thursday morning so she just walked to school. But as she was walking she saw a gate. Once again, Tanya didn’t care about the gate. So as soon as she started walking she tripped over a key. “Might as well see what’s inside this gate.” She said and when she unlocked the lock, something sucked her in like a vacume.

The next thing Tanya knew she was in the future. There was a group of people driving Jet Packs and solar-powered hover cars. Even U.F.O.’s with titanium alien cloning devices.

“AHHHHHH!!!!!!” she shouted. Once Tanya blinked it flash to the past. There were egyptian dancer and the whole village (including the pharaoh) was in the middle of a ceremonie.

She blinked again, and for some crazy reason she was in Puerto Rico. There was 64 banana-flavored puddings, pickled carrots, elephants on a basket ball team, all eating llamas with ketchup on the side. Tanya laughed in pittty of thos “people.” She made a REALLY sour face and scream as loud as possible, “EEEEEEEEKK!!!!. she opened her eyes frighteningly and found out she was sleeping in the kitchen laying in a bowl of cereal. Her Mom, Selda said her full name to get her attention, “Tanya Jane Hanson !!!”

Expository Writing Prompt:

Advice to a New Student

Suppose a new student is coming to your school next week. In several paragraphs, write a letter to this student explaining what is most important for a new student to know about your school and why this information is important for him or her to know.

Dear Lesslie,

I recommend four daily assignments for you to do in order for you to know what the school wants of you.

You'll want to turn in your homework within the time that is given to you. If you need help or can't remember something, ask a parent or a guardian to help you. When you're done with your homework, put it away in a folder or a binder so you can take it to school the next day.

When the teacher is teaching, you'll want to pay attention. to what the teacher is saying. When you pay attention, your body is aware of what the class is doing. So you won't annoy the teacher by asking ten-million questions. Questions are a good thing, too. They help you to learn and stay aware of what's going on around you.

If you want good report cards, then you'll have to avoid messing around. When other people are messing around and it's bothering you, try to ignore that person or tell a grown-up. Other people may try to trick you into fooling around, but just say, "NO," and you'll be fine.

Teachers are often stressed out from helping with their students, so an apple may be a good gift to give to your teacher. I would recommend a big, fat, juicy, red, Fuji apple. I'd give my teacher an apple every day.

Well, I'm done giving my lecture about fourth grade. I hope you feel more comfortable at school and good luck, you'll need it.