



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

You've Got a Friend in Me

My Best Friend



Plot and Ideas

The narrative has a clear setting (school) and characters, but it is not consistent throughout. The overall story is basic with no engaging details ("Another detail about Mary is that that day in class when she was sick I helped").



Development and Elaboration

There are little to no narrative techniques used. No dialogue is used, and while the descriptions are starting to become clear, they are unable to engage the reader ("One day in class she looked sick, so I asked to take her to the nurse"). The characters (Mary and the narrator) are underdeveloped.



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative uses few transition words ("One day," "When," and "In sum") and they do not enhance the sequence of events. One paragraph is written with little to no dialogue present to indicate narrative structure.



Language and Style

The writer does not include language that makes the narrative clear. A tone is set in the introduction ("This story is about my best friend Mary"), but no vivid language or imagery is shown in this narrative. Some sentences are unclear or misplaced, causing confusion for the reader ("Mary is my friend and she defends me from mean kids" and "Another detail about Mary is that...").



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

You've Got a Friend in Me

My Best Friend

This story is about my best friend Mary. One day when Mary came to school she was really sick and wouldn't really talk that much that day but she's my friend so I was worried. Another detail about Mary is that that day in class when she was sick I helped. Mary is my friend and she defends me from mean kids. I help her too. One day in class she looked sick, so I asked to take her to the nurse. Another detail is in the nurses office she puked. I waited with her until her mom came. In sum, that's what friends are for.



Notes
