



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

You've Got a Friend in Me

My Best Friend



Plot and Ideas

The narrative basic and incomplete. While it attempts a focus on the topic ("This story is about my best friend Mary"), the story does not establish a clear central idea, nor does it build toward a climax or clear resolution. It does not fully address the demands of the task.



Development and Elaboration

There are minimal narrative techniques used. No dialogue is used, and while the descriptions of the events are attempted, they are underdeveloped and do not engage the reader ("That day she was sick I helped her by taking her to the nurse"). Characters are mentioned, but are not adequately developed.



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative uses few transition words ("One day," "That day," and "In conclusion") and they do not enhance the sequence of events. Only one paragraph is written and does not contain evidence of a beginning, middle, and end to the story.



Language and Style

The writer does not include descriptive words or figurative language that create images or enhance the characters or setting of the narrative ("She's my friend and defends me from the mean kids..."). The writing lacks a clear, consistent point of view throughout, and does not build the voice of any characters or the narrator.



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 talk to me that much. She's my friend and defends me from the mean kids so I was worried about her when she was sick. That day she was sick I helped her by taking her to the nurse. She got really sick then and threw up and then waited until her mom came because I care about her and I was worried. In conclusion, that's what friends are for.



Notes
