

When I was 5 on April 15th, 2005, I went to my cousins house. She lives in San Diego. Her name is Anna. Her house was huge.

After awhile we went bike riding around a hill. And then we rode our motor scooters around the block.

Then we went inside. We also had breakfast when we got inside. We ate until our stomachs hurt.

And then we went up to Anna's room to play. We played checkers and I won.

And then we to my mom and then my mom said, "We are going to Water Land." After that me and Anna screamed because we were excited. We couldn't wait.

So we got dressed really, really fast and hoped in the van waiting for my mom and Anna's mom. And then they finally came.

We stoped at a hotel because it was getting late. We were tired. And Water Land was far away. So we went up to the room and got some sleep.

Then we woke up. We started to get ready to leave again. So when we were ready we started heading off to Water Land.

We finally arrived at Water Land. Then we got tickets to almost everything there. First we went on almost all the water rides. My favorite one was called, The Windy Water. And then we went to 3 water shows. It was so interesting. I got splashed.

After that we were exhausted so we went home really exhausted.

"Water Land" / 3rd Grade / Narrative / Six Trait, 6-Point Rubric
Prompt: Think of a friend you have, in or out of school.
Tell one story that you remember whenever you think of this friend.

Ideas and Content 5/4	In a narrative we look for rising action that builds to <i>something</i> —Readers may at first glance expect the climactic moment in the story to be the arrival at Water Land and ensuing events thereon. Water Land itself receives short shrift—in this case, the events <i>preceding</i> Mom's announcement, and the happy events <i>following</i> that announcement consume the writer's attention. Still, the paper transcends the monotony of a "bed-to-bed" narrative (so-called because every random event from morning to night is recounted in painstaking detail). Specific, well chosen details show readers a slice of life from the eyes of a third grader enjoying a great time with a friend.
Organization 4/5	The introduction is functional, setting up the time and place for the action, although a few more words to engage the reader would be helpful. A functional conclusion is present, (not just <i>The End</i>). Transitions between paragraphs are slightly varied (<i>after a while, we finally</i>) but the unfortunate repetition of <i>and then</i> bogs down the pace in places. Sequencing follows a clear chronology.
Voice 5/4	The voice goes in and out in this piece, beginning with "just the facts" somewhat stonily delivered, and building in places to "screaming" fun. Energy is generated in moments such as <i>we ate until our stomachs hurt</i> and <i>screamed because we were excited</i> and <i>we got dressed really, really fast</i> . The author's care for detail, precision and accuracy leave an individual imprint that is both charming and engaging.
Word Choice 5/4	Word choice is a trait that includes more than just the range of the writer's vocabulary, but noted here are words such as <i>exhausted</i> and <i>interesting</i> (used correctly). Many words are specific, rather than generic: Instead of <i>we played</i> we get <i>we went bike riding, rode our motor scooters, played checkers, hoped in the van</i> .
Sentence Fluency 4/4	<i>We were tired. And Water Land was far away.</i> The sentences are another mixed bag of short and choppy in places, fluid and varied for effect in other places. The writer is clearly in control of basic sentence construction, and is beginning to include variety. Too many sentences begin with "So..."
Conventions 6/6	The overwhelming strength in this piece are the conventions which demonstrate complexity and accuracy that exceeds grade level expectations. Very little editing is needed prior to publication. Use of quotation marks for dialogue, paragraph indentation, accurate spelling, capitalization, punctuation of a date, are all skills to be applauded in the writing of one so young.