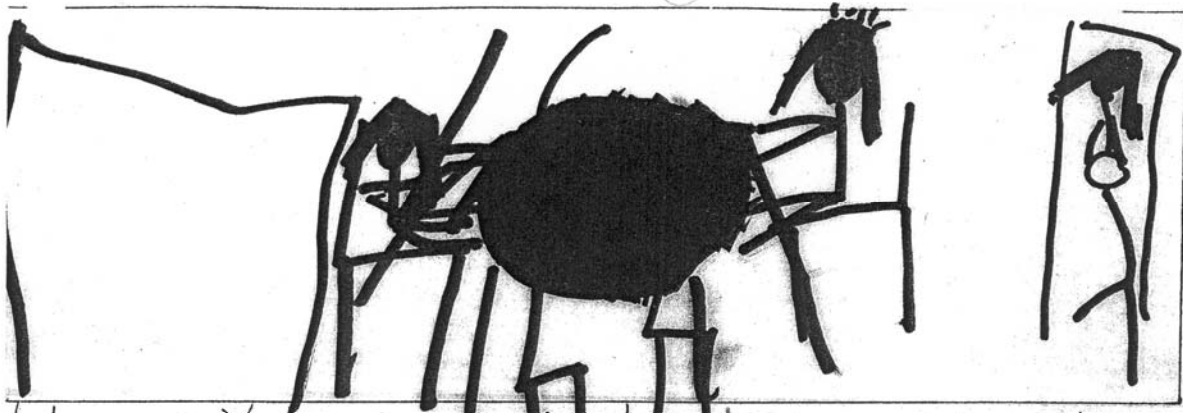


"have You ever had an exciting birthday?"



Have you ever had an exciting Birthday? I have. I said "it is my Birthday it is my Birthday" and that night I got to open two of my presents! The next morning I woke up, a wide smile spread over my face. Oh it was the best day. Guests started arriving. We played for a long time. Then we opened presents. Later on I had chocolate cake with ice cream. "I love chocolate cake with ice cream" Oh how much fun I had!

First Grade—Narrative

“Have You ever had an exciting Birthday?”

Have you ever had an exciting birthday? I have. I said, “It is my birthday. It is my birthday!” And that night, I got to open two of my presents! The next morning, I woke up; a wide smile spread over my face. Oh, it was the best day. Guests started arriving. We played for a long time. Then we opened presents. Later on, I had chocolate cake with ice cream. “I love chocolate cake with ice cream.” Oh how much fun I had!

Ways to Use this Sample during Writing Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To demonstrate how to write a question lead. ▪ To show how transition words move time (that night, the next morning, then). ▪ To show how to develop the inner story. ▪ To discuss how to write a reflective ending. 	
Questions to Consider in Study Groups How could you help this writer see that writing language is sometimes different from talking language?	
Narrative Elements	This writer constructs a narrative of appropriately sequenced events and shows decision making about what information to include. Notice also the way this writer provides a sense of closure to the piece.
Narrative Strategies	Notice the specific word choice, “wide smile spread” and “guests.” She also uses dialogue to bring her voice alive in the story.
Conventions	<i>Syntax and Vocabulary</i> The writer uses informal register in many sentences. The writing reads like talking. Some descriptive vocabulary is used by the writer, as noted above. <i>Spelling</i> This piece has been edited for spelling. Notice the double <i>t</i> in “excit ing .” Often children will overuse a rule when they first learn it. <i>Punctuation</i> The writer demonstrates control over ending punctuation, and some confusion about the use of quotation marks. But again, the approximation of their use is good news...we need to first use new conventions badly before we can use them well.