

"A long time ago in Arvada..."

A long time ago in Arvada when I was four years old it snowed really really really high. When we looked outside I wanted to build a little snowman. My mom got my jacket gloves hat and boots. We went outside. I got a snowball and rolled it on the snow to make it bigger. I put the first ball on the bottom. My brother Johnny got the second one and put it in the middle. I got

the third snowball and put it on the top. My brother got three ricks to put as buttons. My got two ricks to put as eyes. My brother got a carrot to put as a nose. We got some leaves to put as hair. When we got done with the snowman we made a tunnel of snow. We got under it and I went to the other side of the tunnel. I felt happy that it snowed that high.

## Second Grade—Narrative

### “A long time ago in Arvada...”

A long time ago in Arvada when I was four years old, it snowed really, really, really high. When we looked outside, I wanted to build a little snowman. My mom got my jacket, gloves, hat, and boots. We went outside. I got a snowball and rolled it on the snow to make it bigger. I put the first snowball on the bottom. My brother Johnny got the second one and put it in the middle. I got the third snowball and put it on the top. My brother got three rocks to put as buttons. I got two rocks to put as eyes. My brother got a carrot to put as a nose. We got some leaves to put as hair. When we got done with the snowman, we made a tunnel of snow. We got under it, and I went to the other side of the tunnel. I felt happy that it snowed that high.

<b>Ways to Use this Sample during Writing Instruction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To work together with your class to revise the lead and/or ending.</li> <li>▪ To teach how writers sequence events to create narrative structure and form.</li> </ul>	
<b>Questions to Consider in Study Groups</b> What is this writer struggling with? What are his strengths?	
<b>Narrative Elements</b>	The piece includes sequence and details and closes with a reflection.
<b>Narrative Strategies</b>	This piece stretches out a small moment across several pages. The writer recalls with fondness a special memory. The small details contribute to the effectiveness of this piece.
<b>Conventions</b>	<i>Syntax and Vocabulary</i> This piece shows several errors in language typical of a transitioning native Spanish speaker. Notice “it snowed really high.” We would not typically think of it snowing “high,” but rather “deep,” which could be the focus of a skills lesson on synonyms, other ways to show quantity. Also note the use of “put.” Again, this error pattern is noteworthy and could become the focus of a skills lesson or conference.  <i>Spelling</i> The piece has been edited for spelling.  <i>Punctuation</i> This piece has been edited for punctuation and conventions.