



PAWS
Writing
Grade 3
Released Items
With Data

2009



Grade 3
Expository
Letter Written to a Topic
Annotated Anchor Set
“Best Gift”
“Favorite Character”



Grade 3

Released Writing Prompts

Favorite Character

Stories contain many interesting characters. Think about your favorite character from a story you have heard or read. Write a letter to that character explaining why you like him or her.

Best Gift

Think about the best gift you have ever received. Write a letter to the person who gave you that gift telling why it is the best gift you have ever received.

Each paper you will score today was written to one of the two above prompts. The footer on each student response indicates the prompt to which the response was written.

Idea Development

Expository

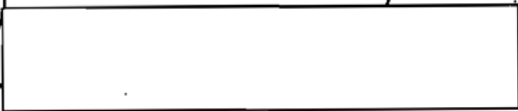
Letter Written to a Topic

Dear Duck,

Did all of those bad things really happen to you while going on the Oregon Trail? I still cannot believe Kit, Fanny, and Jenny were so mean to you. I have no idea what it would be like to lose a mother and your youngest brother. It would be sooo hard! When I'm sick I barely eat a thing. But when I'm not sick I eat as much as I should. I can't believe you had to eat barely anything when you weren't even sick! I can also not believe

you had only one dress and one pair of shoes! I think little Wilkie could see the future like when said that your milk cow Deamon had run, and he was inside the wagon! I still can't believe he was write! How did Deamon get to the creek without sinking in the quicksand. Scitlbeck almost sunk in? It wasn't fair that Harvey and Sonny got more attention from your dad than you and your sisters put together! Out of all of the Oregon Trail books I have read, the Oregon Trail book about you

and your family going west was
the best! I loved reading about
your family and all of the stuff
you had to go through!

Your #1 Fan,


Idea Development	31132003550 Favorite Character	3	The student develops a clear and focused main idea about a favorite character (<i>I loved reading about your family and all the stuff you had to go through</i>). The student's use of descriptive details enriches idea development (<i>I think little Wilkey could see the future, like when he said your milk cow Deamon had run, and he was inside the wagon. . . . How did Deamon get to the creek without sinking in the quicksand Suttlebuck almost sunk in?</i>).
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Dear mom,

I have a gift from
you. It's not jewelry, makeup, toys,
bedding, or flowers. This gift
warms my heart with love. I
have never known a gift
better. This love is better
than any other. I give
a kiss on the cheek and a hug
from your Mother --- it's
Love from you.

Love,

Idea Development	30126010940 Best Gift	2	The writer uses relevant details to support the main idea that a mother's love is a gift (It's not jewelry [jewelry], makeup, toys, bedding, or flowers. This gift warms my heart with Love. I have never known a gift better).
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Hi dath vader I like
when you Fight. you are the
best. you are cool. I Like
Star Wars the Revenge of the
Sith is coming out to movies. It
will be cool. My dad is going
to take me to the ~~Reels~~
the Revenge of the sith. I think
it will be cool. I like you
very very much. I like
the 4 star wars. I also
really like the empire's
back. Thank for coming
into star wars bye.

Idea Development	29920027120 Favorite Character	1	The student attempts to present a main idea in this response about the character Darth Vader (<i>you are the best. you are cool</i>). The writer presents a few relevant details about the movie character, although they are somewhat general and repetitive (<i>It will be cool. . . . I think it will be cool. I like you very, very much. I like the 4 Star Wars</i>).
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My grandma because
she always gives me
money. And grat cards.

My dad because he
bought me a motor
scooter.

... MY MOM because
she buys me a lot
of toys

Idea Development	30126027230 Best Gift	0	This response does not have a clear main idea. The student identifies presents from three people but does not provide details about those gifts.
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Organization

Expository

Letter Written to a Topic

May 3, 2005

Dear Mom

My best present is a radio.

First, it is my best because I had to use my sister's. Now I get to listen to it whenever I want. I also get to sing to my songs and not have to

get in line. Second, I get to sing with out getting interrupted. Now if I go in our bedroom and she is in there then I can take it out. I get to learn my songs instead of her's. I get to hear and listen to my songs

Third, I get to listen to it when I'm going to bed. Now I get to listen to relaxing songs.

Now you know why I like the radio best.

From,

Organization	31384001480 Best Gift	3	The student uses a letter format by providing a greeting, a body, a closing and a signature. There is a topic sentence, and similar ideas are grouped together (<i>First It is my best because I had to use my sister's. Now I get to listen to it whenever I want to</i>). The student effectively organizes paragraphs (<i>First, Second, Third, Now</i>). The response contains varied and mostly correct sentences.
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Dear Mrs. , I think
 Ramona Quimby is funny
 and she gets emdarrassed
 easy. she throws big
 temper tantrums and wants
 what she hears like
 PTA, parent teacher
 Association. when it
 comes to bissnus Ramona
 is serious. She gets
 her work done with out
 playing around.

sinsarly

Organization	29591007010 Favorite Character	2	The student uses a letter format by providing a greeting, a body, a closing and a signature. The student uses topic sentences and similar ideas are grouped together (<i>When it comes to bissnus Ramona is serious. She gets her work done without playing around</i>). The sentences are mostly correct.
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Dear

THANKS for the cd player
and cd.

Love your brother "Y-S/W"

Organization	30298017220 Best Gift	1	The student uses a letter format by providing a greeting, a body, a closing and a signature. The body of the response contains only one simple correct sentence.
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The Benens Tain Beans the
 Sistr is the smols and the Bothr
 popi Beans^{and} mom Beans and they
 Lav in a tsre the Sistr and Bothr
 fit and she Like's Keot. they Like
 to go fid hne they go. taktetn.

Organization

30959015160

Favorite
Character

0

The student does not present the response in a letter format. There is no evidence of a topic sentence, and similar ideas are not grouped together (. . . they lav in a tsre the sistr and Bothr fit and she liks Keot). Many sentences are not correctly constructed (the Sistr is the smols and Bothr popi Beans and mom Beans and they lav in a tsre).

Voice

Expository

Letter Written to a Topic

5-4-05

Dear Saphera,

I have read the wonderful book Eragon and enjoyed it. You have a most interesting personality! I like you because you have a strange way of communicating with Eragon! You are an interesting dragon and I like your teal bluish color. I like the descriptive words that the author describes you with. You play an important part in the book. I like the fact that you're a dragon and the fact that you're a mythical creature! I'm Very interested in mythological creatures. **Thank** you for being in the book Eragon.

Could you send me a picture of how

how you really look? Please reply soon!

Sincerely,



Voice	29493000350 Favorite Character	3	The letter consistently reveals personal voice (<i>I have read the wonderful book Eragon and enjoyed it! . . . I'm very interested in mythogicle creatures. . . . Could you send me a picture of how you really look?</i>). The student uses a variety of descriptive words and phrases (<i>most interesting persanaeity, strange way of communicating, mythical creature</i>).
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Dear Hercules

I think you're the
best god ever Hercules

You're strong, intelligent,
and interesting, you defeated

the lord of the underworld
world Hates and became a
world Hates and became a

god you glowed

like stars in the sky.

Voice

30322005730

Favorite
Character

2

The letter reveals personal voice appropriate to the purpose (*I think Your the best god ever*). The student uses descriptive words and phrases (*intelligent, insteresting, you glowed like stars in the sky*).

Harry Potter

May 3, 2005

Dear Harry Potter,

I like you you're the best. What is it like to
a animated character? I would like to ride
a flying broom, you know, I think it's it to speak
snak? Is it cool to be a star.

from your
fan

Voice	30725017370 Favorite Character	1	The student uses limited personal voice (<i>What is it like to a animated character? How is it to speak snak?</i>). The response includes simple words and phrases (<i>Is it cool to be a star?</i>). There is some repetition of words and phrases (<i>Is it, like</i>).
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Dear character I
felt like your show
because it was felt
hysterical. you gave
us a rily rily! good
show to us thank
you

Voice	31240013140	0	The response is flat and lifeless. The student uses a limited range of words (<i>show, hysterical, rily rily good</i>).
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Conventions

Expository

Letter Written to a Topic

Dear Junie B. Jones, 5-4-05

I love your acts. They are funny, funky, and cool. You always make me laugh everytime I read your books. I like a part in one of your books where you say, "I was trying to call my friend [redacted] and her phone number is [redacted] but I had to have my mom dial it because I kept on forgetting the 5." That is my favorite part. That made me laugh hard. I like how you dress

and play funky. That is the cool part about you. I love your accent. I love the book Junie B. Jones Is a Beauty Shop Guy.

Your acting is outrageous I think! I almost have all your books. They just are hilarious books! I have no clue how you got all that hilarious and good accent. How did you? You sometimes get in trouble at school. I wish you could be a real person. You would be a crack up!

Your books are very fun to read!

In school at silent reading time I sometimes read your books. You can hear me laughing! They are just funny! I also like the book One Man Band. That one is fun to read. I like the part where you are supposed to go on the stage but you don't. You are just hilarious!

Love,

Conventions	29493018630 Favorite Character	3	The response demonstrates consistent use of correct and grade-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation and grammar (<i>I like a part in one of your books where you say, "I was trying to call my friend . . . but I had to have mom dial it because I kept on forgetting the 5"</i>).
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Dear Elexchra,
I like your movie because
it's cool! Your dress that you
wear in the movie is nice.
I wish I had a dress like
yours. Did the hand come
back? Is there a new
treasure? Did the hand
get the girl or no? So Elexchra
how's the treasure you no
the girl. I would do anything
to be just like you Elexchra!
Elexchra is there a new movie
coming out. When is it
coming out. Write back.

Your

friend,

Conventions	29420007510 Favorite Character	2	The student uses grade-appropriate spelling (<i>because, treasure, anything</i>), and capitalizes the beginning of sentences and proper nouns. The student demonstrates control of grade-appropriate punctuation (question marks, exclamation marks, commas). Additionally, the response has only one usage error (<i>you no the girl</i>).
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I like Spongebob why? because he's funny. I like him because he has buck teeth (like me), he goof's off because he's probably excited, he wears really goofy glasses to go jellyfishing he takes things way too seriously because he's worried about stuff that he shouldn't even be worried about. I like him also because he'd do anything for his friends or gary. Sometime I wish I could meet: Spongebob, Sandy, Squidward, Patchrick, Mr. Crabs, and Squilliam Fancy Pants. That would be so cool! because I'm a big fan. I love his acting. It's just so hard to explain how he does his acting!

TV!

Conventions	29715023400 Favorite Character	1	The student uses limited grade-appropriate spelling (<i>somtimes, anithing, worred, h'd. shouldent</i>) and demonstrates poor control of capitalization (<i>i, mr. crabs, i'm, gary</i>). The students capitalizes words in the middle of sentences, and does not capitalize words at the beginning of sentences.
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My Characters is
 Bug's Bune Because
 She is Cool and flunnne
 Characters and laf
 and crase and I like
 Bug's Bune. he is a Crazze
 man the End

Conventions	30959015270 Favorite Character	0	The response includes grammatical errors (<i>My Characters. is...</i> , <i>She is cool and flunnne Characters.</i>) and demonstrates incorrect use of grade level appropriate punctuation. (... <i>Because. She is cool...</i> , <i>Characters. and laf ...</i> , <i>Bug's Bune</i>). The student demonstrates an incorrect use of grade appropriate capitalization by frequently capitalizing words in the middle of sentences.
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