

## Use this checklist to guide your writing.

### Idea Development:

- I have responded to the topic in the prompt.
- My response contains elements appropriate to the prompt.
- The details I use are interesting and on topic.
- My details are descriptive.

### Organization:

- I introduce the paper's topic effectively.
- I use topic sentences and transitions in my paper.
- I group similar ideas together.
- I use paragraphing and indentation correctly.
- I use an effective ending in my paper.
- I use complete sentences that are interesting and of different lengths.

### Voice:

- I use a voice in this paper that is appropriate for this type of writing.
- I use a variety of words and phrases that are precise, descriptive, and original.
- I use words correctly, and I avoid using words over and over.

### Conventions:

- I spell familiar words correctly.
- I use capitalization and punctuation correctly.
- My grammar and usage are correct in my paper.





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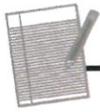
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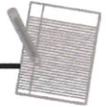
# Writing

## SECTION

# 3







## The Puzzle of the Green Bear

by Caroline Brown

When Bonnie the polar bear turned green, zookeepers were just as surprised as everyone else.

In 1979, a polar bear at the San Diego Zoo turned green. People who saw Bonnie the bear could hardly believe their eyes. How could this have happened?

The answer was in polar bear hairs. Scientists used a microscope to study Bonnie's hairs. Do you know what was growing inside those hollow hairs? Tiny plant-like things called algae!

People have known about algae for many years. If you own a fish tank, you know that algae can grow on the rocks and sides of your tank. If you don't keep the tank clean, a gooey, green slime of algae starts to grow.

How did algae grow inside Bonnie's hollow hairs? The hairs of a polar bear are much too small for true plants to grow inside, but algae from the bears' swimming pool could fit in easily. The bears are always getting in and out of the pool, so the algae had air and water. And the walls of the hairs are clear, so sunlight went into the hairs and helped the algae grow.

Because of those see-through hairs, people at the zoo saw the green color of the algae growing inside!

### From Green to Clean

Wild polar bears aren't green because they live in cold places with lots of snow and ice. Most kinds of algae cannot live in such cold places.

If the algae did get into a polar bear's hairs, the algae would not last long. Polar bears spend a lot of time swimming in salty ocean water. Salt water kills many kinds of algae.

But Bonnie didn't swim in the ocean. She lived in a zoo with only a small pool of fresh water. So zookeepers gave Bonnie a big, saltwater bath! Then they changed the water in her pool from fresh water to salt water. That way, she wouldn't turn green again.

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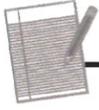




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