

LPF Writing Exemplar

Sarah's Secret (Student 3)

Task Description

Students imagined that they were Sarah in the story 'Sarah's Secret' and wrote a letter to Grandma. Students had to tell Grandma about the 'tiger' under Sarah's bed and what Sarah and Mum had done to get ready for Grandma's visit.

Preparation

Before writing the letter, students read the story 'Sarah's Secret' which is about the 'tiger' under her bed. The following guidelines were given to help students generate ideas for their writing:

In the letter, you can tell Grandma:

- about the tiger under your bed; and
- what Mum and you have done to get ready for Grandma's visit.

Learning Outcomes: ATMs4-5

| Content | Organisation | Language and Style |
|--|---|---|
| <p>ATM4 Writing short texts to convey simple information, ideas, personal experiences and opinions on familiar topics with some elaboration</p> | <p>ATM5 Linking ideas quite coherently in some parts of a text, and showing some overall organisation of ideas</p> | <p>ATM4 Using a small range of quite appropriate and accurate language forms and functions, and showing an awareness of tone, style, register and features of some text types</p> |
| <p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write a short letter to tell how Sarah got ready for Grandma’s visit, and share with Grandma Sarah’s personal experiences about having a ‘tiger’ under her bed and the reasons why she thought that way • express Sarah’s happiness after knowing that the ‘tiger’ had disappeared | <p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish links within some paragraphs using a range of cohesive devices, e.g. the connective ‘so’ to show results in ‘Mother knew that you will visit us so mother and I tidied (tidied) up my room’, ‘but’ to link contrasting ideas in ‘...I told my family members but they did not believe that.’ • arrange relevant ideas in some paragraphs using different means to show a generally clear focus, e.g. using the time adverbials ‘Before we tidied (tidied) my room, I thought that ...’ and ‘After I tidied up my room, I knew that...’ to help explain Sarah’s secret about the ‘tiger’ and contrast her feelings before and after the mystery was resolved • structure the letter using paragraphs, including an opening paragraph, a body with the first part focusing on how Sarah prepared for Grandma’s visit and the second part on how she resolved the mystery about the ‘tiger’ | <p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a small range of vocabulary in her letter, e.g. ‘afraid’, ‘believe’, ‘left’ • use some correct word collocations, e.g. ‘miss you’, ‘looking forward to seeing you’ • use a small range of adverbs/adverbial clauses, e.g. ‘Before we tidied my room, I thought that...’ and ‘After I tidied up my room, I knew that...’ • use simple present tense, present perfect tense and simple past tense quite appropriately, e.g. ‘I am happy that the tiger “left”.’, ‘I have not seen you for a long time.’, ‘...I knew that my notes, toys and socks were under my bed.’ • show an awareness of using some stylistic features in her letter including appropriate salutation and complimentary closing, e.g. ‘I have not seen you for a long time, grandma. How are you?’, ‘Looking forward to seeing you soon! Love, Sarah’ • use common punctuation marks quite accurately, e.g. commas, full-stops, question marks, exclamation marks |

Full text

9th March, 05

Dear Grandma,

I have not seen you for a long time, grandma. How are you? I miss you so much!

Mother knew that you will visit us ^{so} mother and I ^{tidied} tidied up my room ^{and} and buy something for you at once. ^(I will sleep with mother)

Before we ^{tidied} tidied my room, I thought that a tiger lived under my bed and ate my notes, toys and socks from school because ^I lost them. I was afraid of the tigers so I told my family members but they did not believe that. After I ^{tidied} tidied up my room, I knew that my notes, toys and socks were under my bed. Ha! Ha! I am happy that the tiger ^{is} left?

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Love,
Sarah