

Narrative Writing

"Mom, the school play is today!" Emily shouted. She was overjoyed about the production her school would be performing that day. They were performing the play "Beauty and the Beast" and she was the leading role, Belle. In her backpack was an elegant yellow silk gown that sparkled like the sun. Emily's mother had made it for her and the extravagant material had been from one of her bridesmaid's dresses. Emily absolutely adored the creation and marveled her mother's amazing talent. After packing everything for her performance Emily checked to make sure everything was there. "Gown, Dress,..." Emily exclaimed as she ran down the list she had prepared last night. Her costume was very important to her and she wanted to make sure everything was there. After checking over her list a few times Emily decided that she was ready and skipped her way to school. She entered the auditorium a few minutes after arriving and when seeing all the props for the last scene her face lit up with excitement. Everything looked so realistic and Emily loved everything the stage crew had prepared.

A few hours later Emily stood in the dressing room. Her face was not as excited as before. Her elegant gown looked wonderful on her but she did not know if her performance would be as wonderful. Butterflies sat in her stomach and the emotion of being nervous ran through her body. She could not explain what she was feeling and was so afraid that she was going to mess up. As Emily walked forward the red velvet curtain opened revealed an auditorium full of people. In the second row stood her whole family. Would she mess up in front of them?

Fortunately not. Seeing that so many people came to support her Emily knew that she should not be afraid. Confidence overpowered stagefright and Emily put on a successful performance. At the time when she bowed the whole audience stood up and cheered. At this sight she smiled. She had done it, she had entertained the audience.

"You did a marvelous job Emily." one of her classmates exclaimed. To top off her perfect performance Emily was treated to an ice cream sundae and received flowers and a teddy bear. Even if she had not been successful during the play her confidence would have made her successful and believing that she did her best made her performance absolutely perfect.

What are the characteristics of quality writing?

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

Begin your writing here.

RIIING!!! My alarm clock buzzed. My light blue eyes slowly opened. I burst out of bed to my feet. The butterflies were rapidly fluttering around in my stomach. It was my first day of third grade....

I put on my white button down short sleeved blouse and a plaid pair of Bermuda shorts. I had spent an hour packing my backpack and I have had my outfit set since the beginning of August.

When I finished getting dressed I grasped my backpack, threw it over my shoulder and ran down the hardwood staircase.

As I devoured my pancakes with maple syrup my mind was fastened to the thought - were the rest of my friends as excited

Continue your writing on the next page if you need to.

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY
(continued)

Continue your writing here.

as I was?

"Goodmorning Ally, are you nervous?" my mom said in a cheerful tone. "No, not really," I lied trying not to giggle. "I sure am," whispered my little sister Annabelle from across the table. "Oh, my gosh! 6:45. I am going to be late!" I realized as I looked at the clock. "Okay, Ally, Bye!" they shouted to me as my little legs carried me across the yard just in time to get on the bus.

When I arrived I thought - I was nervous and in a hurry for this! I got the WORST teacher ever!

Mrs. Grumpthorp. She was pointing at people (just random people) and saying "You Detention!" Just like that I knew the whole third grade was going to change....

She also had an apple on

Continue your writing on the next page if you need to.

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY (continued)

Continue your writing here.

her desk perfectly round and red. You
 would get 3 days after school
 detention for even looking at it!!!
 RINGING! an alarm clock went
 off. My alarm clock. I realized it
 was just a dream. I rolled
 over in my warm cozy bed to
 find a perfectly round, red apple
 on my dresser....

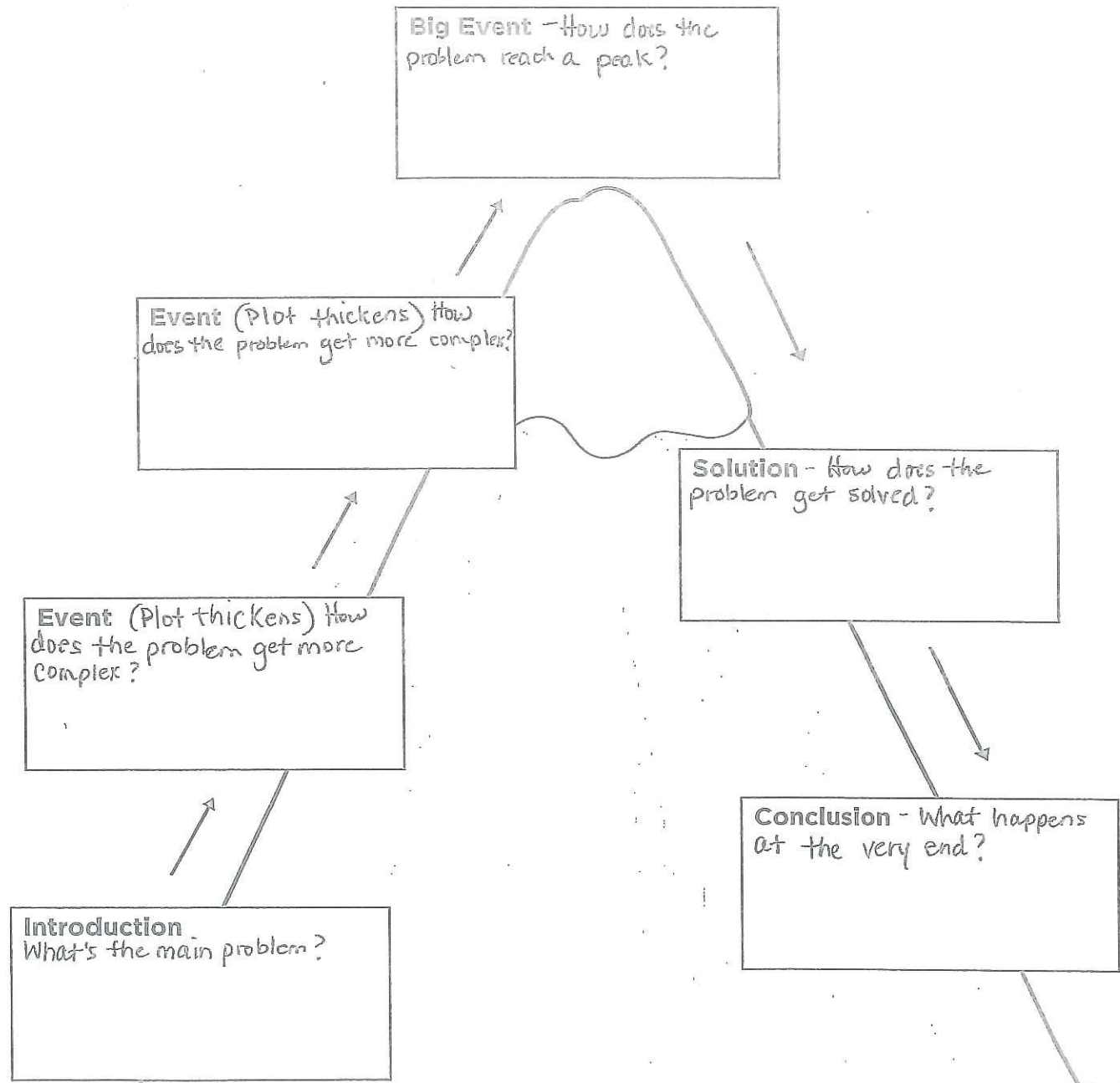
Score Point: 5

This fluent response is focused on the story of Ally's first day in 3rd grade. Opening with the dramatic sound of the alarm clock, the writer sustains the vivid description of the start to the day (*light blue eyes slowly opened, butterflies were rapidly fluttering*) through the opening paragraph. Compositional risk is evident throughout the response and includes the use of literary devices such as onomatopoeia, alliteration, intentional capitalization for dramatic effect, the use of humor (the choice of the name Mrs. Grumpthorp for the unpleasant teacher) culminating in the revelation that it was all a dream. The use of sophisticated devices such as the ellipsis, the sophisticated sentence structure, and precise word choices combine to demonstrate a strong command of language.

Story Mountain

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



Name of Story: _____