Grade 4 Reflective Sample

March 22, 2007

Dear Mr. Stuart,

One of your first books that I read was *The Rightful Owner*. From then on, I was hooked and had to read four others. When I was younger, my sister used to tell me the story in the book she was reading. She told it in such colorful details that I couldn't wait until she read the next chapter, and then tell me about it. Now, I have learned to paint vivid pictures in my writing from the stories that she told, from reading books like *The Magic Tree House* books, and your books. In every book, I found out you used awesome vocabulary, dialogue, and you hooked me just like a fisherman hooks a fish. I love those books, because I feel like I'm part of the story. I'm so glad I have experienced your writing, because reading it has helped me to become a better writer.

Probably, one of the most important elements of extraordinary writing I've learned this year and from reading your books is how to hook a reader. When I read a book, I decide if I'm going to like it after reading the first page. If the author does a good job of "hooking" me, then I will want to read the rest of the book. I've always been hooked on reading your books because you have exceptional leads. In my memoir, "Peaches", I started my introduction by writing, "Sweet and cuddly. That's how I would describe the raccoon I once had." I think this lead will make a reader want to read on and find out about my pet raccoon, Peaches, because most people don't think of a raccoon as being sweet and cuddly.

The second element in your books that has helped me with my writing is learning the importance of using vivid vocabulary. For example, in my memoir, "Peaches", I described my pet raccoon's eyes by writing, "Her glowing green eyes make her look like a spy in the night." When I read *A Ride with Huey the Engineer*, you made me feel excited like Sunny must have felt. I even thought I could smell the freshly baked pie Sunny took Huey. I felt like I was on the train. After reading this book, I wish I could have ridden with Huey and Sunny. Since I have read stories with vivid vocabulary, I see how important it is to include more appealing vocabulary when I write. I want my reader to see the picture I am trying to paint, as well as, enjoy reading my stories.

Another way my writing has improved is by seeing your use of dialogue in your books. The reason dialogue makes your books intriguing is because I know who is talking and what they are saying. I like to hear someone read stories aloud with dialogue; because the reader can change his/her voice to imitate the characters. For instance, in your book the *The Rightful Owner*, there are many conversations between the characters. In my memoir, "Peaches", I used dialogue when I wrote, "Look what I have!" to show the reader my dad's excitement when he brought a baby raccoon home. I used this dialogue so my readers would know exactly how my dad felt and feel like they were a part of my story.

My teacher has told our class that the more we read the better we will write. I didn't know what she meant at first, but now, I see that by reading admirable examples of outstanding writing, I have learned to write admirably. I used to be a good writer, but now I'm a fantastic writer. I try to use the elements of "hooking" the reader with dialogue, vivid vocabulary, and captivating leads. Thank you for sharing your writing talent with me.

Sincerely,

A Fan of Your Writing

March 22, 2007

Dear Mr. Stuart,

sustains appropriate tone throughout reflection

evaluates personal progress throughout

One of your first books that I read was *The Rightful Owner*. From then on, I was hooked and had to read four others. When I was younger, my sister used to tell me the story in the book she was reading. She told it in such colorful details that I couldn't wait until she read the next chapter, and then tell me about it. Now, I have learned to paint vivid pictures in my writing from the stories that she told, from reading books like *The Magic Tree House* books, and your books. In every book, I found out you used awesome vocabulary, dialogue, and you hooked me just like a fisherman hooks a fish. I love those books, because I feel like I'm part of the story. I'm so glad I have experienced your writing, because reading it has helped me to become a better writer.

← strong awareness of audience needs

connects to literacy

authentic insight-ful purpose

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describes own literacy strategies

reflection

specific thorough support insight

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reflection

specific thorough support

reflection analysis

analyzes own areas of growth

insight

reflection

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specific thorough support

analyzes own areas of growth

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authentic insightful purpos analysis

supports claims about self

Sincerely,

A Fan of Your Writing

Instructional Implications:
The writing was organized logically and coherently, but in order for the student to organize the piece in a way to enhance the purpose, instruction should be focused on careful or subtle organization. Using a variety or subtle transitions can help develop this as well. There was also a control and a variety of sentences, but in order to enhance the meaning, instruction should focus on using more complex sentences.