

Here, five hard-working fifth grade writers wrote and published the memoirs you find on these two pages. During the revision stage, they worked especially hard on their word choice and idea development. Read these five narratives, and then talk with a partner about where you see each writer succeeding with word choice and idea development. Be prepared to share your answers with the whole class.

The lesson that inspired this writing can be found online at the WritingFix website:

http://writingfix.com/Chapter_Book_Prompts/Milkweed1.htm

Nitro Madness

by Isabella, 5th grade writer

I was mad! Steam came out of my ears when the attendant at Nitro told me I wasn't tall enough to ride. Katie backed me up. "She waited an hour and a half! At the bottom, where you enter, a guy said she could go!" she shouted. I felt like the coaster stopped just to hear us argue. "Do you mind if I go?" she asked.

As one of her best friends, I wanted her to go ahead and have fun. "Yeah, go ahead. I'll see you later," I told her. She had it easy. She was tall. I couldn't go on Twister either. That one millimeter ruined my day, not hers!

I left. My heart was pounding so hard it felt like a catastrophic earthquake was going on inside of me. As I left the ride, I felt something was wrong. My dad wasn't waiting there! I knew it was because I went back through the entry, but I was frightened. I looked around and thought the worst. What if he forgot about me? I was alone! I looked around, turned back, and started weaving my way through the crowd. Then, I saw him. His black hair stood out. I ran to him! Soon Katie came too.

I'll never stop being mad that I couldn't ride, but the day turned out okay. Maybe the thrill of Nitro wasn't worth it. The day wasn't as great as I'd hoped, but it wasn't bad either. The important thing was that I wasn't alone. I'll never forget my day at Six Flags. What a great adventure!



Riker

by Ryan, fifth grade writer

When I was little, we had a dog named Riker. We named him after a character on Star Trek. He died when he was only two weeks away from his thirteenth birthday.

While he, my mom, and my dad were at the vet, my sister and I were at my cousin's, trying to get our minds off him by playing Ratatouille on the Wii. When my mom and dad returned, I asked, "Where is Riker?"

With teary eyes, my mom said, "He's up there," and pointed up. After that, my dad drove us home and we all went to bed.

The next day my mom was still crying. My sister and I went over and hugged her. Throughout the day, it felt like there was a gloomy rain cloud over our house. Everyone was sad and down. That night we played a game of Scrabble and secretly let my mom win. Then we took her ice skating, which is her favorite thing in the whole universe.

The next day my mom was okay. The rain cloud had lifted and everybody was emotionally healed. I'm happy that we got through this together.



The Big Crash

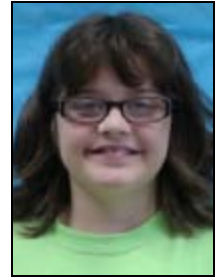
by Hannah, 5th grade writer

"Woo-hoo!" I was yelling at the top of my lungs as the sun beat down on me. I was on my roaring 4-wheeler going up and down hills rapidly. As I went up and down, gaining more and more speed, I was having the time of my life. The more hills I went down, the bigger they got.

As I went through the long, thick grass, I came up and raced down. I lost control of the speeding quad. As I was turning left, it was turning right. Then *BANG!* My front right tire hit the tree. I flipped over the black handle bars and rolled five feet away from my quad. I quickly stopped and tore off my helmet. My mom and dad came rushing over as I held my side. I had tears running down my bright red face. My mom asked, "Hannah, are you okay?"

My dad said, "Suck it up!"

I didn't get hurt bad. All that happened was some bruising and torn skin. No blood. No broken bones. I was scared, but I was fine by the end of the day.



The Funniest Flip Ever

by Anthony, 5th grade writer

Ding dong! I heard while I was watching an afternoon Yankee's game. The doorbell chimed like a blue jay singing a sweet spring song. When I opened the door, I saw my friend Andy from down the street. "Hey Andy," I said.

"Guess what? Guess what? Guess what?" he yelled all at once.

"What?" I replied, obviously annoyed.

"I can land my back flip on the trampoline! Wanna come over and see?" he asked.

"Sure." I said, as I put a tape in to tape the game.

As we darted down the street, Andy explained to me how long he had practiced and worked at landing the flip. When we entered Andy's house, the aroma of fresh, homemade chocolate chip cookies filled the entire, two-story house. I felt like I was in a bakery. "Mmmmm!" I slowly groaned.

"I'll ask my mom if you can stay for dinner so you can taste some of those awesome cookies," he said. While I said hello to Andy's brother Brian, Andy sprinted out the sliding glass door to the trampoline. As I attempted to climb on too, Andy cut me off and said, "Stop! I need to be on the trampoline alone to do it!"

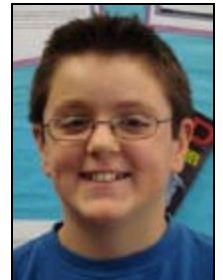
As he rapidly began bouncing, I was doubting that he would be able to land it. Andy got a good bounce, thrust his hand back and...stuck the landing! Although when Andy's feet hit the floor of the trampoline, so did his pants. He was wearing Power Ranger undies!

Trying to hold back my laughter, I blurted out large, hearty chuckles and was rolling on the grass. "Ha! Ha! I'm... I'm... Sorry but... Ha! Ha!" I bellowed joyfully.

"Hey!" Andy screamed.

"I'm really am sorry," I said.

"That's OK. It was pretty funny," Andy said with small giggles. That's why it was the funniest flip ever.



The Strangers

by Madison, 5th grade writer

I had just come home. It was 2:30 p.m. I set down my book bag and I looked out my living room window to see if my friend Shannon was home. She was, but a car pulled into her driveway and two people got out. I had no idea who they were.

Bang! The two strangers opened her door loudly. What was going to happen? I hoped nothing to her. "Oh no!" I heard a loud scream!

I ran to Shannon's house and saw that...the strangers were really her uncle and her grandpa. They had come to surprise her. I was so embarrassed.

