



Inspired by the Pam Conrad's book Pedro's Journal, fifth grader Paige imagined she was a person who had been in a different time and place from history. Paige did some research, and she wrote the following story from her character's point of view.

Read Paige's story below, and talk with a partner about where she succeeded most with her story's organization and voice.

What's organization?

- There is a strong introduction to the piece of writing
- The writing comes to a satisfying conclusion
- Transitions are used to move the idea along logically
- Paragraphs are written with purpose
- The introduction somehow links back to the conclusion
- Titling the piece effectively

What's voice?

- The writing shows an awareness of an audience
- The writer shows a passion towards the topic
- The writer has used devices of style (such as figurative language), when appropriate
- The writer has captured a tone or mood (including humor) with words, when appropriate
- The writing shows awareness of perspective and point-of-view

On Board with Harriet Tubman

by Paige G., fifth grade writer

"Come on, we'll need to walk a bit more before the next house!"

We were all tired from walking the night. However, as we moaned and groaned about how exhausted we were and how frightened we were of the thought of being caught, we all remembered why we took this brutal and risky trip.

That powerful word, that meant not to be owned by another, but to live like a bird gliding in the baby blue, sun-filled sky. Freedom...the word we yearned for.

No matter how much we said, "We'll finally be free," the trip was still hard and frightening. Many times, we hid in hay - inside barns, always hearing the people looking to capture a runaway slave or two.

I remember when Harriet and all of us were heading down the road and we spotted some white folks heading our way, but they were on the other side of the road. We all sprinted into the woods. We ran so fast we felt we were in a horse-drawn carriage at light speed.

Traveling from the South to the North was a magnificent experience. Just going from state was great. I love seeing the light-brown, nothing-covered hills and the green-grassed, animal-covered landscapes.

My children would have loved the sunset in the North. Every time I see the bright orange sun, setting in the purple sky, it always reminds me of their laughter.

Now that I am free and living the life I always dreamed of, I look at the world differently. Back in Atlanta, Georgia, I always felt trapped, as if I were in prison. Now that I live in Saint Paul, Minnesota, opportunities have opened for me. I learned that dreams come true no matter how big or small they may be.