

Mrs Henjum's fourth graders, inspired by the writing of Roald Dahl, created showing paragraphs inspired by telling sentences that she wrote on the board. After brainstorming details, and verbs and adjectives, they crafted the paragraphs you see below. Mrs. Henjum, then, asked her writers to include their original telling sentences somewhere in their paragraphs, either as a first sentence, a last sentence, or somewhere in the middle.

Look over the five samples below, and answer these questions by talking to a neighbor:

- Which sentence is the writer's best sentence? Why?
- Other than the telling sentence (**in bold**), which sentence could still use a bit of work? Why?
- Would the telling sentence (in bold) sound better if it was somewhere else in the paragraph? Where and why?

Rachel M., fourth grade writer

She loved to be sweet and kind, encouraging everyone who thought the work was hard. Gentle with her words, but firm on consequences, she learned from other teachers on what to do, and what not to do. She let people who wanted to redo the grades that they didn't like and let them turn it back in. She worked hard to keep the class in perfect order and was very creative to teach class in a fun way all the time. She liked to listen and give up her time for students. She loved the kids in the class so much! Her name should be Mrs. Honey. She worked hard to be pretty and she'd be concerned about others. **The teacher was nice.**



Jordan H., fourth grade writer

The bluebirds tweeted their cute little songs, and the crickets sang theirs. We rode our bikes and sang for hours. Each day we hiked for a really long time. **The vacation was fun!**



Darius M., fourth grade writer



One day the radio said someone could win a vacation and we won! I went to the beach. I jumped on the bed. I swam in the water. I went to the water park. **The vacation was fun.** When we got home, I went to sleep like a baby. Zzzzzz.

Tayla A. fourth grade writer

The teacher is nice. She's never given homework. Her attitude shines with laughter and happiness. She listens to everyone's words with a lovely smile on her face every day. She has a smile so wonderful it lights up the world.



Anthony C., fourth grade writer

He broke his mirror by punching it because he had been mad. He has an overflowing trash because he threw trash everywhere. When he jumped on the bed, if you were under the room, you'd see really big cracks in the ceiling. When he got ready for school, he tripped over his shoe, but he couldn't find his other shoe. When you look at his rotten food, you find flies. **The room was messy.**

