

These two sixth graders, inspired by the opening of Robert De San Souci's [Brave Margaret](#), created these opening paragraphs to stories that have yet to be written. The writers' goal was to set-up a story that the reader would really want to know the rest of.

Looking over each paragraph's *organization* and **idea development**, decide which complete story of the three you'd want to read first. Be prepared to share your reasons with the class.

The lesson that inspired this writing can be found at the WritingFix website. Click [here](#) to directly access it.

The Silver Penny

by Shelby, sixth grade writer

person: an artist

place: a ship

thing: a coin



Karl was the kind of artist who would never paint the ocean because he hated the water with a passion. He always got sick on a boat, and he almost drowned the one time he went swimming. So Karl was nervous about going on the boat that took him--and his friend Joe--to Joe's studio in America. The trip across the ocean would take 3 or 4 days. The moment Karl's foot hit the dark, shiny wood of the ship's deck, Karl felt his stomach turn. He quickly ran to the rail and grasped it as if he were falling into a black hole. He saw something shiny out of the corner of his eye, and he jerked his head in that direction. His left hand let go of the rail and grabbed the coin. He gazed at it, stunned, completely forgetting where he was. Upon suddenly dropping it, he threw himself into the ocean after it.

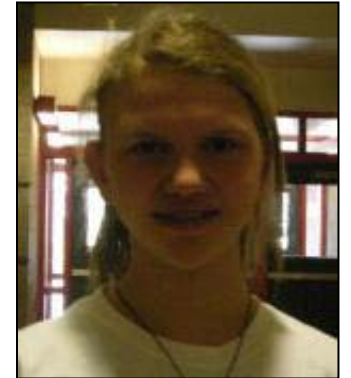
Alexander's Quest

by Shari, sixth grade writer

person: a peasant boy

place: Greece

thing: some bread



The sun beat down on Athens, having no change on anything new. Alexander Apolche, a poor boy, was at the market to buy some bread. Walking back along the crowded streets in the market, he headed home. He had long blonde hair, deep blue eyes, and a face that looked like the gods had made it. He was a very fast runner, but he had never left the city. He went back to his house that hadn't changed in Zeus knows how long. He lived on the outskirts of town and was just in time for dinner. They had the wine and bread he had just bought home a few hours ago. Alexander was an only child who lived with his father because his mother died in a fire a year ago. Alexander wanted to know what lay beyond the rivers and beyond the mountains. Soon his chance would come.