

**Ms. Crawford's fourth graders—inspired by the book *Harry and the Terrible Whatzit*—developed original story ideas about overcoming fears. Read these stories with a friend, and decide which writing trait (besides idea development) these students succeeded with the most.**



### **Attic Monster**

by Allen, fourth grade writer

In the attic, there's no light, no sound, and even no life.

*Grr! Thump, thump!* Johnny was in his room reading when he heard these sounds.

"Was a twelve year old boy afraid of sounds? Was it maybe just the attic?" He kept on asking himself these questions.

Then he heard his mom say, "Can you please get me the light bulbs in the attic, Johnny?"

The boy wanted to know what was going on in the attic, so he replied, "Sure Mom," then suddenly was scared of what's inside as he approached the attic.

When he opened the door, he didn't see anything but boxes piled up and a red glowing light. At first, he thought he saw the bulbs, until it moved. *It* turned out to be a blue, large, scaly, and aggressive dragon.

"Who-who are you?" Johnny stammered.

"I am Promient Dragon," said the dragon.

Johnny saw the light bulbs underneath the dragon.

While Promient was talking, Johnny thought what his weakness must be: light...because he's been in the dark for a long time. So Johnny opened the door, and light filled the attic. Promient got weaker and weaker, and then the dragon collapsed on the floor. The light bulbs were free. "If you want darkness," Johnny said, "try the abandoned house at the end of town."

Ten seconds later Promient was gone. "Mom, I got the bulbs!" Johnny exclaimed.

"Are you okay, because I thought I saw something fly away?" asked his Mom.

"No, if there was I would have taken care of it!" Johnny said with a grin.



### **Frankie and his Fear of a Dragon**

by Tyler, a fourth grade writer

*Wham, slash, bam!* Windows breaking, glass everywhere, holes in the wall!

"Frankie!" his mother would call. Whenever she asked him what happened, he'd say that he was trying to get the Boogeyman out of the kitchen, or that the monster in his closet had to go.

Frankie Anderson was an intelligent boy with a big imagination, and he had a lot of fears. His biggest fear was a dragon.

One day when his mother was working in the beautiful, colorful garden, she asked Frankie to get a shovel out of the garage.

"No!" said Frankie.

"Why?" his mother asked.

In a deep, scary tone he said, "Because Saphira might be in there"

"Who is Saphira?"

"A dragon, it could be a mean one."

"Why would a dragon be in the garage?"

"I don't know why, but if she eats me it's your fault."

*Creak! Creak!* Frankie slowly tiptoed into the garage, seeing hammers, saws, nails and...a DRAGON! Frankie and Saphira stood right next to each other.

"Please, please don't eat me!"

"Why would I eat you?" asked the dragon.

"Be-because there's ch-chainsaws and ha-hammers, and not to mention those fangs and your belly!" Frankie shuddered.

"Well I can't just leave."

"You know, the neighbor's garage is bigger. You can go there."

"Ok, but remember you should always get over your fears."

"Thanks. Bye." Since then, Frankie has never had a fear again.