

Inspired by Tony DiTerlizzi's picture book, [Ted](#), these second graders worked on their **idea development** and their **word choice** as they wrote and revised these stories about unique imaginary friends.

Read both stories, then work with a partner to find one place in each story where the writer showed skill with idea development and word choice.

Derick

by Jake, second grade writer

I was going to TWIST writing camp where I got no friends. I saw an imaginary person on a bike. I was on my bike too so I asked him what his name was. It was Derick.

In Derick's family there was a problem. The problem was that they have no food. He and I made a deal that we would be friends. He turned into an imaginary friend. Our deal was that he would be able to make me a boy of many talents and I would provide his family with food.

We went to camp. I provided his family with so much food that he cured my hands and brain. I COULD WRITE. I wrote poems and stories that got published. I thanked Derick.

I grew up to be a famous author. Derick's family survived because they got jobs and money to buy food.



Courtney's Great Power

by Sofia, second grade writer

Kayla was walking to school. She did it every day. It was very typical. Sometimes she got bored, so she called for her imaginary friend, Courtney. Kayla had no friends, so Courtney was her friend. Courtney went to school with her.

Once she got in trouble just talking to her in class. Another time Kayla's teacher called on her, but Kayla was so busy playing with Courtney she couldn't talk.

Kayla had to play volleyball and basketball but she didn't know how. When Kayla got home she was very sad. Courtney asked her, "What's wrong Kayla?"

"Oh, nothing much. It's just I'm supposed to play volleyball and basketball but I don't know how."

"How about you ask your mom and dad if they know how to play the two sports?"

But they didn't.

Kayla was humiliated when she tried playing in gym. When Kayla got back from school, she was very down. Courtney started talking and said, "Let me guess. Mom and dad don't know how to play?"

"Ya."

"I'm going to tell you something that nobody knows about me. I'm good at all sports and I can teach you how to play the sports."

Suddenly Kayla's face brightened up. "Really, you'd do that for me?"

"Of course."

"Oh, thank you!" Kayla kept giving hugs and kisses to Courtney.

The next two days were the weekend, so for two days, they practiced and practiced until Kayla finally beat Courtney at volleyball and basketball.

When she went to school the next day, she beat everyone. Thanks to Courtney, Kayla even beat the teacher! That's Courtney for you--a cool girl that looks like everyone else. As big as a typical girl, but one with a very special talent.

Courtney was a true friend.

