

Here, two eighth graders share their character sketches that were inspired by Sharon Creech's *Walk Two Moons*. Both Christine and Grant worked on their **idea development** and **word choice** as they drafted and revised these pieces. Read both sketches, then talk with a partner about where you see each writer's strength with these two writing traits.

Vivian Chai

by Christine, eighth grade writer

I befriended Vivian when I was in grade one. We've been very good friends for eight years ever since our first meeting. She left Chinese school, but she's coming back for the credit course next year in grade nine.

Vivian's very funny, and she has a good sense of humor. Not only does she have a lot of funny jokes, but she also laughs all the time and she doesn't mind making others giggle and smile too. She doesn't care if people make fun of her because she shrugs it off like a silly joke. She makes something funny out of everything. Not in a bad way (like making fun of someone in class and disturbing the lesson) but she adds humour and joy to bored souls, like mine.

Vivian's also very understanding. She listens to what you have to say and gives a reasonable response. If you're upset, she'd think of ways to cheer you up. Once I was unhappy about my mom grounding me, and she gave me an enormous bear hug and told me everything was fine and that my mom would un-ground me sooner or later. After that I felt much better. Although she didn't say much, Vivian made me feel as if someone cared.

Someone did care. That someone's name is Vivian Chai.



Grandpa John

by Grant, eighth grade writer

The man whom I idolized as a child was old Grandpa John. He, in my mind, was the most creative, interesting, respectful, and brilliant man I've ever met. He used to amaze me with facts and other interesting things he told me. I recall asking him why he knew of such things, and he would always answer, "I just do."

The inventions that were inside his tool shed were amazing. It was mind-boggling to see all of his past inventions, dating back to when he was just a boy. He kept every single invention, terrible or spectacular, because, according to him, each one was a part of him and a part of his success. The things he invented were often things that were going to make Grandma's and his life easier. He made things like the Toes and Toast, which would quickly paint toenails and make a little snack at the same time. Also, the peel-o-matic, a handy machine that could peel potatoes, apples and even oranges!

As a man of the Richardson family, my grand-daddy was a very respectful man, like my father is and like I aspire to be. He honoured all of his promises, never would purposely embarrass you, and all the decisions he made were fair and un-biased.

This man had the biggest influence on me, and when he passed away a few years ago, it was the saddest moment of my life. In my future, I hope to make Grandpa proud as he looks down on me.

