

Inspired by Jack London's The Call of the Wild, these fourth graders worked on the traits of **idea development** and **voice** while they wrote these stories. With a partner, discuss where each author has shown good skills with both these traits. The lesson that inspired this writing can be found on-line at the WritingFix website: <http://www.writingfix.com>

### **Toucan Sam**

by Alex, fourth grade writer

The twitchy and fluttery toucan Sam was preening his wings with the sun's rays glistening down on him. Sam lived on an enchanting island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Without warning, the ground started to shake wildly like an out of control earthquake. Sam swiftly took to the aqua blue sky and saw the dilemma. The volcano had erupted!

Lava blasted out of the volcano, orange-red and smoldering hot. Sam nimbly shot out of there like a bullet, flying toward the vast ocean. But when the scorching hot lava plunged to the ground, a colossal cloud of dense smoke shrouded the island. Toucan Sam couldn't even see his lengthy beak. As a matter a fact, he couldn't even see an inch in front of his face through the smoke. Sam was lost.

Sam started to feel aghast. He didn't know what to do. If he flew too far, he might go beyond the island and fall into the turquoise, frigid water and drown. If he landed, he might fall into the heaping pool of scalding lava. Just then he had an idea. Sam could furiously flail his wings to try to move the thick gray-black smoke away from him. The toucan tried his hardest and did. Inch by inch, little by little, Sam fluttered through that smoke. Finally after one final beat of his vigorous wings, Sam was free! Once again he could see the dim sunlight and a tinge of orange. He flew away and thought about another dilemma – where to go now.



### **What to Eat, What to Eat**

by Lawson, fourth grade writer

Sheen the monkey faced an appalling dilemma. He refused to consume the food that was offered to him. Sheen tried pilfering the tourist's meals, but that didn't appeal to him either. He also tried snatching some food from the man marketing his merchandise.

After that Sheen tried devouring bananas, mangos, and other various fruits. He spit it all out in disgust. He then tried to thief a meal from his primate friends, but he discovered that it was the exact same food he despised before.

Finally he decided to give up. Sheen slouched beneath a tree. Immediately the monkey jumped up. He had sat upon a fruit. He chomped down on it. He didn't know what it was, but it sure was delectable. Sheen dined upon the scrumptious fruit until he was completely satisfied.



### **Timmy the Tiger**

by Teddy, fourth grade writer

Timmy was a curious tiger. One day Timmy smelled something peculiar. He sauntered over inquisitively to discover what it was. Timmy scouted the island, and he found some sort of tracks.

Timmy followed them until they were swiped by the crashing sea. They looked odd with their five circle points sticking off one oval. He then saw some trees illuminated by something other than the night sky. He wandered a little farther, and then saw a fire. He sprinted to his best friend Joe's dwelling, and together they had a steak out by the blaze.

The two tigers heard odd voices. They saw strange creatures with round heads and sticks coming off their middle parts. The two rushed forward snarling. The creatures fled. The island was still the animals'...for now.

