



The Gymnastics Meet

by Lexy, 5th grade writer

Person/Character: a gymnast

Place/Setting: gymnastics meet

Thing: the bars

Natasha--my name written on my warm-up jacket--glittered when I walked onto the gymnastics floor. I smelled newly-fresh chalk and nervous sweat from the previous meet. I headed to the bars, my favorite event. It always calmed me down when I felt the smooth, rough wood of the bars. I still felt a little sick to my stomach, but I went back onto the floor to present myself to the judges. I lined up with the other gymnasts. We looked like models on a runway.

"NATASHA GOLDEN," the judge yelled. I was up next on bars. I saluted the judges to show I was ready and I swung on. From bar to bar, I showed them what I could do. When I was done with the routine, I flipped off and I landed my triple back ending.

Everybody yelled and screamed, 'NATASHA! NATASHA! NATASHA!' over and over again.

I waited nervously for the score. What would my score be? It was a 10! I won the gold medal!



A Visit to the Museum

by Alfredo, fifth grade writer

Person/Character: a hunter

Place/Setting: a museum at night

Thing: a net

Joe entered the museum of Ancient History, looking for an unusual adventure, a terrifying adventure because he was a brave hunter with his net. All of a sudden, Joe heard steady footsteps behind him. He twisted his body around to see what had happened, but nothing was there except for the American Indian exhibit. He was frightened; he also felt someone watching him. The cold, dark museum was silent except for the wind coming from an opened window, but then he heard the sound of moving keys. A little bit of moonlight shone on Joe's silver net launcher and made him fall down. When he looked up, the dinosaur's skeleton in the dark made him tremble. Joe heard someone whistling, so he turned around, accidentally pressing the button to launch the net. What if Joe's net was launched to a police officer that worked at night?



P.S.S.F.D.
by Brierly, 5th grade writer

Person/Character: a dog
Place/Setting: supermarket
Thing: soccer ball

Do you like soccer? I bet you thought only humans can play soccer, but...so can dogs! My dog had joined the P.S.S.F.D: Professional Super Market Soccer For Dogs!

At Al's supermarket, the checkered linoleum floors is glossy under the bustling of shoppers, the clicking of high heels, and the swooshing of carts until....Rufus the Ref howls and a soccer game begins in the grocery store! Paws, tails, legs, and fur take over the small super store. Brandi, the Bernard, barks boldly to Chimichanga, the Chomping Chihuahua next door.

Next, Chimichanga is pitched in to air by Brandi and, with a noggin' the size of a pinto bean, he heads the black and white ball into the mountain of Kraft Macaroni, leaving the Husky goalie in confusion. I mean, this was the game of the year! After twenty-seven minutes of paws and fluff, the game ends and the supermarket is a mess! Who is going to pick this up?

Discussion question about these writing samples:

These three students were working on these two traits: **idea development** and **word choice**.

Discuss how these students used the following skills:

Idea Development:	Word Choice:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The writer used a balance of showing and telling.• The writer's details try to paint a picture in the reader's head.• The writer took a unique approach when writing about this topic.• The writer stayed on topic throughout the entire writing.• The writer's theme/message is clear to the reader.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The writer's adjectives are excellent and thoughtful.• The writer used a good balance of action and linking verbs.• The writer's nouns are precise; the writer doesn't overuse pronouns.• It is clear that the writer is not afraid to take risks with new words.• The writer used a few color and texture words to describe.

Which skill did each writer do the best with?