

Here, two fourth graders—inspired *Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street* and the lesson at the WritingFix website—wrote the following paragraphs. Read both pieces, then talk with a partner about which character’s advice from 90th Street seems to have influenced the writing the most.

Ghost Hunt

by John, fourth grade writer

Person/Character: a man

Place/Setting: a cemetery

Thing: a flashlight



On a cold, fall night leaves were blowing in the wind by the old cemetery. A rusty old pickup truck parks. A man steps out. The cemetery glares at him as he walks through the obsidian night. He slowly walks with his small, trembling feet. His wide hands move the flashlight through the night, trying to find the ghost. *Tap tap!* He hears something but doesn’t see anything? As the wind howls in the moonlight, the weary man shakes from the cold. It is dark as an alley, thinks the man. *Drip drip!* The sweaty flashlight almost slips out of his hands. What if the flashlight burns out?

The Chase

by Mustafa, fourth grade writer

Person/Character: a criminal

Place/Setting: a highway

Thing: a car



It is the middle of the night, and the only sounds are police sirens on the highway. They are trying to catch the criminal. He has a burgundy hat and wears an indigo mask so they cannot tell who he is. He is armed with tons of weapons and is on the ten most wanted lists. He is super crazy. People say that he is a wild animal let out of the cage. He is so dangerous that he breaks the law and is a carjacker. The sad thing is innocent people have to go through this. The only thing that the police don’t know is that the car is stolen. It is obsidian and scarlet. When the car starts to run out of gas, he gets out of the car and jumps off the bridge. Luckily the police boat is right under him, but the thing is they aren’t police. They are his partners in crime. What if the police don’t realize it’s not their boat?