

These two fourth graders were working on the trait of organization as they wrote these stories. Talk with a friend about where you see each writer being well-organized.

On the Mississippi by Joselin, fourth grade writer



“Oh, that’s coold!” I screamed as I got onto the wooden raft. I pushed my feet against a rock and left shore. I made a big splash. The water was as cool as a snowflake in Antarctica. I thought I was going to freeze. My feet were so cold that they were numb.

As I floated down the Mississippi River, I noticed a leopard frog. It was trying to camouflage itself in a tree, but it moved too much. All of the sudden, it jumped into action and leapt on a lily pad. I couldn’t believe my eyes!

Further down the river, I spotted two green, glittery eyes. I jumped with excitement! It was a rare salamander. It was sun bathing on a giant rock surrounded by other rocks.

Another animal I saw was a white tail deer. It was drinking water from the river when it heard the snap of a bear stomping on a twig along the shore. The deer lifted up his head and looked everywhere and then ran as fast as his little legs could carry him back to the forest. I laughed.

Suddenly my raft stopped! It got stuck on a sand bar and I knew it was time to get off, so I did. While I was trying to find my way back, I was thinking of my adventure and that I was so glad that I floated on the Mississippi River that day.

An Amazon Adventure by Bryan, fourth grade writer



I was riding my bike. *Kaboom!* I hit a rock and fell off. I saw an inner tube that was glistening in the sun. So I jumped on it and I was off. The water was dirty and filthy. I saw a fish near the top of the water. I tried to touch it, but suddenly it swam away. The air was fresh, and I said, “I’m on the Amazon River!”

I heard a sssss from somewhere. I looked everywhere until I saw a furious anaconda sliding on an ancient tree. It was as enormous as me. I shook like a dog, but I made myself act. I paddled fast, but it was catching me. I hit it so hard with my paddle that it was not moving anywhere.

I moved on. I saw a frightening piranha. It had sharp teeth and red sparkling eyes. I put my feet all the way up so it could not bite me, but it did bite me. “Ouch!” I said as I smacked it hard and scared it like a baby. It tried to bite my inner tube, but I was paddling as fast as I could and got away.

After that, I saw a humongous Amazon River turtle eating plants, fruits and leaves. It was glaring me and made me nervous. It was coming at me, but I did not want to paddle because they are good swimmers. I left quietly.

I hit a spiky branch and my inner tube exploded, so I swam to shore as quickly as I could. My adventure was exciting and scary because I saw scary animals. It was exciting to be in the water and to see the Amazon River turtle. It was so much fun.

The lesson that inspired this writing can be found at the WritingFix website (<http://writingfix.com>).