

Inspired by Tony DiTerlizzi's Ted, a lesson at WritingFix is challenging students of all ages to write original stories about unique imaginary friends. Student writers are challenged to work on *idea development* and *word choice* as they draft and revise their stories. Read Andres' story and talk about where you see him showing good skills for both these writing traits.

Jack & I

by Andres, fifth grade writer

Me and Jack, we are always together, always playing, and always making trouble. Jack's my imaginary friend. He's only one-inch high and one-inch wide. Jack is white and black, not to mention he is round. My parents don't believe me, my brother thinks I am crazy, and my teacher sends me to the principal's office just because I talk about him.

One day, on a Saturday afternoon while I was playing video games, Jack had a great idea when I was playing race cars. He said, "Instead of playing race cars in a video game, why don't we play race cars in real life?!?"

"Nice!" I said. We grabbed a cardboard box, cardboard, and wheels. We went driving all over the house. All of a sudden, my dad came out of his bedroom. By accident, Jack and I tripped my dad by his leg.

"Go put that stuff in the garbage and go to your room!" He grounded me for a month. It was soooooo boring.

After that, I had a talk with my dad about Jack. I described Jack. After a while, I noticed that my dad was smiling. His eyes were getting watery. In a second, he busted out sobbing for 2 minutes. Later, after the crying, my dad said that Jack had been his imaginary friend when he was my age. I was grinning for a bit.

Then Jack poked his head out of my pocket, and Dad was flabbergasted. A bit after, Dad left the room. I ended up playing hide and seek with Jack. "On one condition," he said, "I want your father to play too." I called for my dad. I could tell that he really wanted to play just by looking at his face. It was really fun.

