

Jessika's story below was inspired by an on-line lesson posted at the WritingFix website. Using Dav Pilkey's Dog Breath as a mentor text, Jessika wrote an original story about an animal with a problem. Read Jessika's story and then, with a friend, discuss her idea development, which is the trait she was working on as she wrote this.

You can find the lesson that inspired this writing by using this link:  
[http://writingfix.com/Picture Book Prompts/Dogbreath1.htm](http://writingfix.com/Picture_Book_Prompts/Dogbreath1.htm)



### **Duke's Coat**

by Jessika, third grade writer

Once, across six oceans and seven valleys, there was a Pinto horse named Duke. He lived on a peaceful farm with all his friends and wore a rainbow bandana with a matching personality. Despite his award-winning features, Duke had a big problem. His coat was so shiny and colorful that anyone who looked at it was blinded instantly. Everybody had to wear sunglasses around him.

Sometimes this hurt Duke's feelings, but it never troubled him much, until one day. It was Earth Day. Duke and his friends had just planted fifty fir trees down by the lagoon, and now Duke and his friend Betty Donkey were deathly exhausted. Betty did not have to wear sunglasses around Duke because she was already blind. Duke and

Betty were relaxing by the creek. The calm, flowing water seemed to relax them and wash away all their troubles.

Soon Charlie the pug came trotting happily over the hills. Charlie was a small dog with a big mouth. Nobody could start an argument with him and win. Duke didn't notice him prancing by, so Charlie turned to say hello. But before he could say a word, he caught a glimpse of Duke's magnificent hide. He uttered a shriek loud enough to knock Duke back to reality.

Duke saw Charlie stumbling around and ran over to help the frantic dog. But Charlie didn't know it was Duke, and he kicked him in the leg. Charlie lost his balance, and he tripped over a rock. Unfortunately, there was a six foot cliff beneath him, and he went hurling down into the pit below. Luckily, there was a pool of water at the bottom, so Charlie didn't get hurt. When they got back to the farm, Charlie wanted to sue Duke for 964 ears of corn.

Betty was fed up with Duke's coat and decided to do something about it. So the next morning, even before the birds were chirping, Betty took Duke to the top of a high plateau caked with mud. She told Duke to stand still, while she took an electric fan and turned it on maximum power. Betty hoped the mud would completely cover Duke's coat. But his blinding glow still shone through.

After a cool shower under the waterfall, Duke and Betty set off again. This time Betty took Duke to a large garbage dump. Betty dug deep into the piles of filthy trash until she found a brown jacket. She hoped that the jacket would block out Duke's coat. But even jackets were no match for his colorful coat. The jacket instantly disintegrated into dust.

Duke gave up. Betty begged Duke not to go, but he just walked away sadly. Betty would not give up. She galloped back to the farm and asked her friend, a cow named Oreo, if he could help her. Oreo agreed. He packed up a mask and ran off into a meadow. There he ducked behind a tree and waited.

In the same meadow, Duke was sulking underneath trees. After a while, he came to the same tree that Oreo was behind. Oreo put on his mask and jumped out, bellowing a roar so horrible, so blood-curdling, that Duke jumped twenty feet into the air. When he came down, Oreo gasped. Duke had been scared right out of his skin!