Here’s an organization lesson that focuses on sequencing with transitions:

**Overcoming a Personified Fear**

Share and enjoy *There’s a Nightmare in my Closet* by Mercer Mayer. In this story, a little boy, who is sure there is a monster hiding in his closet decides to get rid of it for once and all. In confronting the nightmare, he discovers that it’s really not so terrible after all.

Mary L. (a fourth grader) used Mercer Mayer’s story pattern (from the worksheet below) to write:

> There used to be a monster in my math book! He made me get all the problems wrong. Before opening the book I always hoped he wouldn’t be there. I was even afraid of my pencil and paper. When it was homework time, I’d peek between the pages, and there he was. I decided one day to get rid of the monster once and for all. As soon as I sat down, I got out my new calculator and the monster took one look at it and never bothered me again.

Time for you to write!
What would you like to get rid of? How could you do it? Use the pattern to write about your own idea of getting rid of something.

My title: _________________________________

There used to be a __________________ in my __________________

It made me _________________________________

Before I _________________________________ I always hoped __________________

I even ______________________________________________________________________

When it was time to _________________________________

I __________________________________________________________________________

Finally one day I decided to _________________________________

and _______________________________________________________________________

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Support the author of this picture-book inspired lesson by buying a classroom copy of *There’s a Nightmare in my Closet*.

This lesson is featured in the Northern Nevada Writing Project’s *Going Deep with 6 Trait Language* Guide.