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YEAR **1** LEVEL **A**

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In order to represent students' writing skills in grades 3–5 (Level A) and in order to align with what Andrew read aloud in the video, the sample compositions and essays reprinted in this downloadable PDF were intentionally not revised by IEW's editorial staff.

Benjamin

Week 3

September 24

How We Hurt Ourselves

In the summer a traveler sat down to rest. He was sweaty. A fly landed on him from time to time. He mumbled, “Get away fly.” He tried to smack the fly, but he hit himself instead. He hit again, and again it stung. He got frustrated and angry. Then he understood his mistake. He thought, “If we get angry, we will hurt ourselves.”

Patrick

Week 3

September 24

Hurt by Anger

On a very hot summer day, Bob, a weary traveler, sat down on a smooth rock to rest. He was very sweaty, which just happened to attract an annoying fly that frequently landed on his bald head. “Get away fly!” he grumbled swatting repeatedly. He tried again and again to smack the fly, but kept failing, which made him very infuriated. When he finally realized his mistake, he was very ashamed of himself. He thought to himself “When we are so enraged, we are likely only to hurt ourselves.”

Anna

Week 4

October 2

The Blind Mole and the Funny Mother

Once a little mole said to his mother, “Why mother you said I am blind. Surely I can see!” Mother mole thought “I need to quickly get that nonsense out of his head.” So mother mole put some frankincense in front of him and asked him to tell her what it was. The mole said “that’s just a pebble.” “Well that just proves you have lost your sense of smell and you are extremely blind,” laughed mother. Boast of one thing and you will be found lacking in that and a few other things as well.

Emma

Week 4

October 2

The Kid's Piper

Once there was a goat kid who thought he was a grown billy-goat. One day when he was out in the pasture he paid no heed to his mother as she called to him to come with her to the barn. Later when the flock was gone the kid started to think about what he had done. He knew that he was all alone. He knew that the sun was sinking and he knew that there were long shadows on the ground. He knew now. The wind made scary noises in the grass. The kid was scared and shivered at the thought of a wolf then (of course) he started bleating for his mother. Then he saw a wolf and knew there was little hope for him. "I know you are going to eat me Mr. wolf but before you do, please play on your pipe so I may dance and when you eat me be merry." The wolf thought that it would be nice to have some music before he ate. So he played and the kid danced gaily. Meanwhile the flock was home and the shepherd dogs were outside the barn and heard the wolf's piping far off. Knowing that, that is the song the wolf sings before a feast they raced to the pasture. The wolf's song ended suddenly as he ran from the dogs and knew that he should have just carried away the kid instead of becoming his piper.

Aaron

Week 5

Oct. 9

Camels Never Give Up

Most people think there are two types of camels but there are actually three types of camels in the world. The dromedary, which is the most common camel, has one hump. Dromedary camels have been trained for thousands of years. Dromedary camels are found in Africa, Middle East and parts of Australia. The second species is called Bactrian camels. The Bactrian camel commonly has two humps. The Bactrian camel is trained in all parts of Central and east Asia. Another camel type is called the wild Bactrian camel. In the secluded parts in the Gobi desert, the wild Bactrian live. Only 1000 wild Bactrian camels remain, they are in danger.

People have used camels for thousands of years. People have trained camels for carrying things, for racing, and for warfare. Camels, who were taught by people, pulled plows. Camel milk has many vitamins and nutrients. In Africa they use camel's urine for medicine. Camel's meat is used for big parties in the Middle East. Nomads use camel's milk and camels blood and mix it up which is highly nutritious for their journeys. Camels hair is as light as a feather and firmly strong. Camels hair can be made into clothes, blankets, and tents. Camels never give up.

Emma

Week 5

Oct. 9

Endurance and Patience

There are three types of camels. The camel that is more commonly found is the dromedary camel which has one hump and is an Arabian camel. The dromedary camel has been domesticated for thousands of years. The dromedary camel can be found in northern Africa, the middle east and Australia. The second camel species is the Bactrian camels. This type of camel is also domesticated and can be found in the deserts in central and eastern Asia. The third camel species is the wild Bactrian there is only about one thousand wild Bactrians still alive today. They can be found in the remote regions of the Gobi Desert. They are critically endangered.

Humans have used camels for millennia, which means thousands of years. I think it is safe to say they have been around a while. Camels are normally used for a pack animal, for racing and warfare or at least they were. Now they are used less. They can be taught to pull plows. Their milk is highly nutritious. In Africa camel urine is known to be medicinal. And in the middle east they are served at feasts. Travelers drink completely disgusting camel blood mixed with camel milk. Camel hair is light and strong, so the camel hair is used for blankets, tents and rugs. The camel symbolizes endurance and patience.

Joshua

Week 6

October 16

Greedy to Grateful

King Midas, who was extremely greedy, loved gold more than anything. One day, a strange visitor happened upon the king's palace. He discovered that the king loved jewelry and shiny clothes. He was dissatisfied and always wanted more. The mysterious visitor told the king that he would grant him one wish. King Midas wished for whatever he touched to turn to gold.

Suddenly, when he sat down for supper his chair, table and all of his food turned to gold! He tried to take a drink of water but when it touched his mouth, it turned to gold. He quickly spewed it from his mouth. He went to get his favorite pillow and blanket to take a nap, but when he laid down, he felt something terribly hard. All of his favorite things had turned to gold! Lastly, his cherished daughter, which he loved more than anything, leaped into his arms to give him a hug. She instantly turned to gold!

King Midas, who was extremely devastated, cried out "No!" He regretted what he had wished. He repented and was very sad and lonely. The mysterious visitor came back and said to Midas, "Go to the river Pactolus and wash your hands." The magic wish washed off and he hiked back home. He looked upon his beloved daughter and everything that had turned to gold returned to normal. After that stressful day, he stopped being greedy and was very generous and grateful for everything he had.

Jack

Week 7

Oct. 23

A Bare Tale

Once, Opossum had a white fluffy tail, of which he was arrogantly proud. Then, one afternoon Opossum spotted Raccoon in a tree. When Opossum spotted Raccoon's rings, he wanted rings like him. Raccoon's rings looked so pretty in the afternoon sun.

Opossum quickly waddled over to Raccoon. He asked, "How did you get those rings?" Raccoon replied, "First, you wrap your tail in bark, which you then lay in ashes." By now, Raccoon had a big, mischievous smile on his face, but Opossum took no notice. Opossum thanked Raccoon, and went to get his rings.

When Opossum found some bark, he wrapped his tail in it as Raccoon had instructed. Then, he went down to where the other animals were enjoying a large bonfire, which was a VERY large bonfire indeed. When the fire cooled down, Opossum excitedly ran over and placed his tail in the coals. As he did, the coals, which were still very hot, caught Opossum's tail on fire. He yelled, "OUCH!!!" Opossum jumped into the lake, but he was too late. His tail was bare! He was grief-stricken and hurt by what that Raccoon brat had done. Opossum waited many years for his fur to grow back, but it never did. So all his children, and his children's children have had bare tails ever since.

Patrick

Week 7

Oct. 23

The Woeful Mouse

When the world had first been created and only animals inhabited the land, a young harvest mouse named Michael brushed his tail's long, smooth hair. The other animals marveled at how soft and shiny it was which made Michael very proud of his truly wonderful tail. Then one day, Michael suddenly discovered Ralph the rat scrounging through a pile of dead leaves looking for things to eat.

“You know, I'd hate to have such an ugly and hairless tail!” Michael carelessly blurted out. Then realizing how impolite he had been and afraid that Ralph might start to chase him, he quickly scampered off. Ralph, who was short-tempered and loved practical jokes, was angered at Michael's comment. “How dare he say that,” thought Ralph. Then an idea popped into his head and he went to work on his plan.

A couple of days later Michael spied Ralph again and began to apologize profusely, but Ralph cut him off. “Don't worry, I know it wasn't intentional. So for a gift, I made you this!” he exclaimed. “What is it?” asked Michael. “A special hair conditioner for your tail,” Ralph declared, which was a lie because he knew it was really hair remover.

That night Michael, who did not suspect anything, slathered it on his tail, crawled into his bed and quickly fell asleep. In the morning, he grabbed his brush and looked down to gaze at his truly amazing tail ... only to find it completely

Patrick 2

bare! “Noooooooooooo!” screamed Michael. He knew he shouldn’t have been rude to Ralph, but what a horrible trick! He waited for his beautiful hair to grow back, but it never reappeared. So from that day forward, the woeful harvest mouse and his descendants have had bare tails.

Lauryn

Week 8

Oct. 23

Cookies and Milk

In a red barn, in the middle of the country, there lived a loving hound and her five little puppies. Her playful puppies loved catching balls, rolling on bugs and chasing their tails. The puppies played with Freddy the bunny, who was funny. He spent most of his life hopping around the barnyard continuously searching for carrots. Their neighbors, donkey and cow, were both unhappy and grouchy. The puppies ran around the stalls annoying them.

One day the littlest puppy, who was a runt, found a bag of wheat seeds in the corner of the barn. They asked bunny if he wanted to help plant seeds but he giggles, “I’m way too busy!” but they growled, “No!” In the afternoon, the puppies asked, “Who would like to help water?” The bunny cried, “Not I!” And donkey and cow mumbled, “Not I!” When it was time to harvest the wheat, the puppies asked, “Who wants to help?” And they all yelled, “Not I!” Big momma dog asked, “Who will help grind the wheat?” All the puppies excitedly barked, “Me! Me! Me!” But the donkey, bunny, and cow squawked, “Not me!” They ground the wheat into flour and decided to bake cookies.

Momma hound dog asked bunny, who was digging in the garden, to help mix the cookie batter. Bunny exclaimed, “No!” She asked cow to help crack the eggs but he mournfully moaned, “No way!” So, she asked donkey to pour the sugar but he was too busy kicking the farmer. Soon the delicious smell of cookies floated in

Lauryn 2

to the barnyard. Bunny, cow, and donkey ran to the doghouse window and asked, “Can we help eat the cookies?” “No!” cried the momma and her puppies while they ate their cookies and milk.

Eliana

Week 9

Oct. 30

Drastic Deserts

The **Sahara** is the **largest hot desert**. It stretches across Africa, the Atlantic ocean, and the red sea. It can get so hot up to 120°F. That is hot enough to fry an egg. On the shores of the Nile River the Egyptian civilization thrived. Because water is scarce, only 70 different kinds of animals live in the Sahara. White gazelle and addax roam the dunes. Amazingly, camels which have transportation can survive weeks with no water.

The **Gobi desert** is very **cold**. The Gobi desert stretches across the southern Mongolia, and the northern China. Mongolia's amazing "flaming cliffs" that gets its name because it looks redish. In the day it sounds like the sand is beautifully singing. Animals which are in the Gobi desert are rugged. Musk oxen, jerboas, and many other animals can survive in the harsh climate. The critically endangered wild Bactrian camel is a particular animal. These are the two deserts. These deserts are drastically important.

Joshua

Week 9

Oct. 30

Dangerous Deserts

The **Sahara Desert** is the largest, hottest desert in the world. It consists of sand seas called ergs that constantly change shape. The temperatures in the Sahara are so severe they could reach over 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The Egyptians were a civilization that lived near the Nile River, which flows through the Sahara Desert. Because of this, they were able to survive the extreme heat. Since there is so little water, only about 70 kinds of animals can survive. They live in burrows and drink water from the food they find at night. Camels, which are used for transportation, can survive an entire week without water in the **Sahara Desert**.

The **Gobi Desert** is the opposite of the Sahara desert. The Gobi Desert is very cold and located in Southern Mongolia and Northern China. In the Gobi, there are famous red cliffs that are called the “Flaming Cliffs” because of their vibrant color. The Gobi Desert was where the first dinosaur eggs were discovered. The Hongory Els, which is a magnificent sight, is a place where the position of the sand allows the wind to mysteriously produce a whistling sound. Animals in the Gobi are rugged and only a few can survive the climate. The Bactrian camel is one example. It is adaptive and can tolerate the extremes the **Gobi Desert** is known for.

Addison

Week 10

Nov. 14

Reptiles in the Desert

The **Saharan sand viper** is a rather **unusual** snake because it gives live birth instead of laying eggs. It grows to be 1.6 feet long (50 cm.), which is small for a snake. The viper is pale and sandy, with dark markings, and a wide triangle shaped head. The sand viper cleverly buries itself in the sand to hunt. Sand vipers' venom cannot kill people. Lizards, birds, and rodents, however, die and become lunch for the sand viper. The **Sahara sand viper** is a very **odd** snake.

The **Mojave rattle snake** is **dangerous** because it has retractable fangs with powerful venom. This snake can grow up to 50 inches (120 cm.) long, which is over four feet in length, but most only grow to be three feet long. The Mojave rattlesnake can be an olive color, gray, or brown, but all have a dark diamond pattern on their backs. When these snakes are born they have one section of a rattle on their tail and develop one more section every year. They hunt in the southwestern part of the United States and in central Mexico. These snakes eat rats, other snakes, mice, lizards, birds, frogs, and insects. The **Mojave rattle snake** is incredibly dangerous.

The **grey monitor lizard** lives in a lot of **places**. They survive in the Sahara Desert, the Arabian Peninsula, and in central Asia. The grey monitor grows to be 3 feet long and weighs 3 lb. It has a forked tongue, which helps it smell its prey. The grey monitor's venom is in its saliva. When in the wild it eats just about anything

Addison 2

including lizards, snakes, ground nesting birds, tortoises, eggs, toads, gerbils, young rabbits, dead hedgehogs, dead cats, dead dogs, and if they must, fruits and vegetables. When kept as pets, they can safely live to be 25 years old and weigh six pounds because they are fed regularly. There are many desert reptiles, but the **grey monitor lizard** lives in many **places**.

Zeke

Week 10

Nov. 14

Versatile Reptile

The **sand viper** is 1.6 ft long. It bury's it'self in the hot sand. Lizards, rodents, and birds mistakenly think the sand viper's wiggling tail is food then they get eaten. The sand viper is a sidewinder. It jumps instead of slithering. Is also interesting because it bears live young instead of laying eggs which most snakes do. You should be careful of even small **snakes** that live in the **desert**.

The **mojave Rattlesnake** one of the most **dangerous** snakes in North America. It's venom is stronger than any other rattlesnake. In fact, it can get up to 50 inches long. It's rattle increases each year. These creatures live in the southwest United States and central Mexico. Because it is nocturnal it hunts at night. It usually hibernates in the fall and winter. The **Mojave rattlesnake** is **vicious**.

The **Grey monitor** is a type of lizard. In the wild it can weigh three pounds and be three feet long. The Grey monitor uses its horribly strong jaws and venom in its saliva to eat its food. It will devour lizards and snakes who can't get away, beetles, centipedes and scorpions. It will also eat fruit's and vegetables if it must because it seems to eat anything. The **Grey monitor** is a versatile eater.

Anna P.

Week 11

Nov. 27

Antarctica: A Frozen Desert

Antarctica, which is the fifth largest **continent**, is twice as big as Australia. It is the largest desert in the world. Because of its extreme cold, Antarctica is covered in ice sheets and snow, measuring a mile thick in some areas. The **continent** of **Antarctica** is almost completely covered with snow.

Because of Antarctica's **extreme weather**, life on the continent is very limited. Sadly, very few plants can survive. The coastal animals, which are the king penguins and the emperor penguins, have adapted to the harsh climate. Seals and whales are the only mammals that are in Antarctica. They escape severe winds while swimming in the ocean searching for food. To escape the **extreme weather**, the mammals migrate to the north at the end of summer.

Antarctica's population consists of **research** scientists and tourists. The continent was first sighted in 1820. Because of the extremely dangerous temperatures which can reach -128.6 degrees F., exploring the continent can result in serious injury and death. Norwegian Roald Amundsen, who was racing Englishman Robert Scott, was the first to reach the South Pole in 1902. The first building on the continent was a rock formation. Today there are 70 **research** stations in **Antarctica**.

Patrick

Week 11

Nov. 27

Visiting Antarctica

The **weather** in **Antarctica** may be freezing, but it is in fact the biggest desert on **Earth**! The coldest temperature that has been reported is -128.6° F. Blizzards in Antarctica don't actually bring snowfall because they are produced by intense winds that whip old snow from the mountain peaks. Winter and summer in Antarctica are both six months long, which means there is no spring or fall! **Antarctica** has the chilliest **weather** on **Earth**.

Antarctica has **minimal** flora and fauna, because of its severe climate. Only mosses, liverworts, king and emperor penguins, snow petrels, seals, and whales may be espied on and around Antarctica. After searching for food in the summer months, the seals and whales, who require copious quantities of food, journey north to warmer territories. While **Antarctica** may have a **minimal** wildlife population, it includes some definitely cool creatures!

Antarctica was first discovered by Captain John Davis in **1821**. Overtime many explorers mounted expeditions to Antarctica which unfortunately resulted in serious injuries and deaths. A team of Scottish explorers constructed the first building made out of rocks in 1902. In 1911, a group of Norwegians reached the South Pole before the British. Seventy research stations are manned by scientist from thirty diverse countries because they signed the Antarctic Treaty. **Antarctica** has been visited by people since the **1800's**!

Josh

Week 12

Dec. 18

Journey of a Lifetime

Marco Polo traveled to China. He left with his father when he was 17 years old. They carried letters from the pope. Two friars, who were to accompany them, abandoned their expedition. Because they decided against sailing, they traveled on an overland route instead. **Marco Polo's journey to China** was extremely long and amazing.

Marco Polo's trip home was full of difficulties and hardships. He had remained in service to the Khan, who was the Emperor, for 17 years. He left with 14 ships, a princess, and 100's of men. The trip took two years to reach Persia. Because of disease, drownings, and pirate attacks, many of the crew died. Despite many hardships, **Marco Polo finally returned home** after 24 years.

Marco Polo was **famous** for the books he wrote about his extravagant **journeys**. His book, which was titled, "The Travels of Marco Polo," was extremely popular. It was nicknamed "The Million Lies" because many people did not believe his stories. Sadly, it is possible that his stories were changed by others over the years. Two centuries later, his book inspired Columbus to sail around the world. On his death bed, he was asked if he had lied about his adventures. **Marco Polo** claimed that he had told barely half of the journeys he was **famous** for in his **lifetime**.

Anna K.

Week 12

Dec. 18

Marco's Famous Story

Marco Polo's early life was full of **skills** and treasures. In 1254, Marco was born into a rich and wealthy family. Because his Mother tragically died, he was raised by relatives. His father and uncle left for China when he was around six. Marco Polo who received a good education leard how to be a wonderful trader. **Marco Polo's education in cildhood** was intresting.

Marco polo's life after visiting **china** was **successful**. He traded very valuable things, which included ginger, cinnamon, and peppercorn. Because of three years of violently fighting in a war, he was captured and thrown into prison in the land of Genoa. He believed he could write a book with help and he did. After that he married and had three daughters **Marco Polo** was a very **successful** man **after** his trip to **China**.

Maro Polo's book was amazingly **popular**. Unfortunately many people who heard his storys did not believe in Marco Polo's crazy adventure. They were amazed at what he wrote. Because he wrote it, Colombus was inspired to sail west to India, which was America. On Marco Polo's deathbed, people tried to force him to admit that his stories were not true. Marco answered, "I told barely half of what I actually beheld." **Marco's story**, which was full of adventure, became **immensely famous**.

Sophia

Week 13

Jan. 16

The Story of the Savvy Camel

Once a boy named **Ezekiel** was resting in his tent because he was **cold**. There was a cleaver camel sticking her head in. The camel's name, which seemed cold, was Sandy. "I believe that Sandy's rope was not tied properly. She's so smart," Ezekiel mumbled. "Come in come in Sandy, there's plenty of room". **Ezekiel** pet Sandy's nose because he was **cold**.

Sandy walked fully in and she was huge! Ezekiel was slowly backing away because she was incredibly big. He was getting squished and hot. Sandy comfortably sat down. Sandy, who had a strong odor, was ten times more stinky than a pigeon's dropping! Ezekiel was pushed **out** by **Sandy**.

Ezekiel was **out**! There was an epic push fight! He flew out and hit his head harshly. Ezekiel who was dizzy, had a gargantuan headache. He was mad because of Sandy. "I never should have let this smart camel **in**," **Ezekiel growled**.

Patrick

Week 13

Jan. 16

Mr. Ahab's Guest

Mr. Ahab resided in the Arabian Desert with his cantankerous camel, **Pacha**, because he couldn't imagine living anywhere else. One day when Mr. Ahab was cooking his dinner, he noticed Pacha, who was sticking his nose into his crowded tent. "What an intelligent beast!" he exclaimed. **Mr. Ahab** quickly gestured to his camel, "Come, **Pacha**."

Pacha, who did as he was commanded, sauntered into the **tent**. Mr. Ahab slowly began backing away because he had forgotten how immense Pacha was compared to the tent. Mr. Ahab was now squished, crushed and overwhelmed by the odiferous scent of Pacha. "Whoa **Pacha!**" he exclaimed, "Get out of my **tent!**"

Mr. Ahab was eventually propelled outside of his own **tent**. Pacha, who had been outraged when Mr. Ahab had told him to leave, shoved Mr. Ahab out with his nose. Mr. Ahab suddenly understood Pacha's attitude because of the swirling glacial wind blasting him in the face! Now freezing, dizzy and despondent, **Mr. Ahab** whispered to himself, "I NEVER should have invited Pacha inside my **tent!**"

Addison

Week 14

Jan. 18

Marshmallow People

On a **frosty**, winter day in Pudewaville, three children named Ben, Tim, and May looked outside their kitchen window and spotted heavily falling **snow**. They were excited because it was the first snow of the season. They wanted to go sledding and were hoping to go really fast down the big hill behind their house. They shouted for joy at seeing **snow**, but their mom, who was worried about the **frigid** temperature, wanted them to bundle up before going outside to play.

Ben, Tim, and May's mom **dressed** the children like it was -20 degrees, when really it was only 10 degrees. Their mother told them that whenever they were done sledding they could have hot chocolate. The kids, who loved hot chocolate, replied with an enthusiastic whoop. They were dressed in long sleeves, sweat shirts, long underwear, jeans, hefty coats, mittens, hats, boots, and finally snowsuits. The **kids** were worried that they would be too hot because of the many layers they were each **wearing**.

The **kids** waddled around the big hill like **penguins**. They were very stiff from all the clothing, and looked like marshmallows, which was weird. May and Tim slipped on the ice, and Ben could hardly move at all. Sledding was hard, because all of their clothes made it impossible to run and play. The kids went inside because they were having no fun. **Ben, Tim, and May** were glad to take off all the snow clothes and to no longer look like marshmallow people or waddle like **penguins**.

Joshua W.

Week 14

Jan. 19

The Fun Snow

Upon a **cold** winter's **dawn** there stood three young children admiring some snow which was peacefully falling. Their names were Jack, Joe, and Sally at the ages of ten, six, and four. They were so excited about the snow that they forgot all about the wonderful breakfast they were supposed to have. There was no stressful school that day because it was freezing outside. Jack, who is the oldest, whispered, "Shall we have a snowball fight?" Sally screamed, "Yeah!" Joe's reaction was, "Yippee!" and "Let's race outside!" forgetting how cold it was outside and waking up his mother. They ran to their mom asking, "May we run outside?" They yelled it so quickly that their mom had to ask them to repeat it more slowly. After their mom had heard them more clearly, she asked, "Are you sure? It is a **freezing morning** out there!"

Their mom **dressed** them with love for the **cold**. She reminded them, "No ice skating" because she didn't want them hurt. "Want to come out Mom?" asked Sally. Her mom replied, "No thanks." She had them dressed in long jon shirts, long sleeve shirts and a sweater on top, and on the bottom long jon pants, jeans, and snow pants which were really hot and puffy. "And do not forget the hats, scarves, mittens, coats and snow boots!" Mom chimed. Jack politely responded, "Thanks for **dressing** us for the **freezing** weather with all of these clothes."

Because the clothes were so heavy, **Jack, Joe, and Sally** waddled like penguins. When they bent over to make some snowballs, which was hard, they face

Joshua W. 2

planted into the snow. They made some big snow angels instead. It was extremely hard to get up, but it was impossible to pick up snow to make snowballs. Their mom believed that they were so cute, that she decided to get her phone and take some pictures. “It may have been hard work dressing them, but I know for sure **my three children** are having a lot of fun in the snow,” Mom reflected.

Jack

Week 15

Jan. 25

Dinosaurs in the Library

Jack was reading a fascinating book about dinosaurs. Jack was at the library, which was where he was planning to check out more books. He was there because he had a PE class. It was nearly time for class and **Jack** was almost done with his **book**.

As **Jack** was on the last page of his **book**, the lifelike volcano erupted and the dinosaurs emerged from the book. Jack yelled, “Yikes!” because of the ferociously frightening scene before him. There were Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, and more! The Tyrannosaurus Rex turned around and spotted Jack, whose skin went white. **Jack** wished he had not read that **book**.

The **dinosaurs** were rampaging through the **library**. The librarian had fainted and people were screaming in terror. Jack, who ran as fast as his wobbling legs could carry him, was no match for the speed of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. Suddenly, all of the dinosaurs were sucked back into the book. Because of this, people stopped screaming and the librarian woke up. Jack left for class, glad there were no **dinosaurs** in the **library**.

Anna P.

Week 15

Jan. 30

The Magical Dinosaur Book

Once upon a time, there was a boy named John, who loved **dinosaurs** and going on **adventures**. While he was at school, his teacher told the class, they were to do a book report that was due on Friday. When school was over, John hurried directly to the library. When he arrived, it was very weird because there were knights, dragons, astronauts, and wizards walking around. There were also storm clouds all over the ceiling. “Hi, my name is Miss Beth and I am the librarian here. Welcome to the magical library,” exclaimed the librarian. “Thank you,” replied John. When John was finally over his amazement, he decided to find a book about dinosaurs. When he found a book entitled, Adventures with Dinosaurs, he sat in a cozy chair and began to read. He really thought it was extremely interesting and could not stop reading it. John was swept up in the amazing **dinosaur adventures**.

Suddenly, while **he** was **reading**, an eye looked out at him. Then a huge pointy horn poked out of the book! Then three dinosaurs crawled out! “Ahh!” screamed John, because there was a T-Rex, a Pterodactyl, and a triceratops standing in front of him. He had no idea what to do. The dinosaurs, which were running all over the place, were knocking everything over. Then as if the world stood still, all the dinosaurs stopped with their eyes fixed on John. John quickly remembered in a book, which he had previously read, about how to tame dinosaurs. He tried to tame the dinosaurs using what **he** had **learned**, but it just didn’t work.

Anna P. 2

He quickly ran up to the **librarian**, who didn't seem to notice that anything was wrong, and frantically yelled, "Help, please help! There are real dinosaurs coming out of my book!" The librarian calmly explained, "Oh, that happens all the time. If you want them to return to the book, you just need to say the magic words, "I wish for you to return to your book!" All three gigantic dinosaurs scampered back into the book. Because **he** was at a magical **library** and didn't want any more dinosaurs coming out of books, John decided to choose a book about puppies instead.

Anna K.

Week 16

Feb. 6

The Happy Turtle

There was a turtle named **Turtle** who wanted to fly because its too slow to walk. He had tried fifteen trees already. He would bravely try to climb then he would dramatically fall into an imperfect landing. He mumbled, “I can’t fly but I will try a new tree. Maybe that will work.” “This one looks good and sturdy,” cried Turtle but he failed. Turtle wept “Im exhausted!” He started to waddle home when he spied a tree and excitedly screamed, “It’s the perfect tree! Now, I **want to fly**, **Turtle** yelled, as if I were a super hero, more than ever!”

He **climbed** the **tree** and again **fell**. He went back to the tree again, climbed and fell. He climbed five more times and each and evry time he dramatically fell because he was on a thin branch. A baby bird, who was cute, spotted Turtle from his cozy nest. Turtle tried one more time. He **climbed** the **tree** for what seemed to the baby bird as the one hundredth time and if he did it one more time then the baby bird would fall asleep and Turtle **fell** again.

The **baby bird** was really **confused**. Baby bird asked his dad, “Can we tell him he’s adopted?”

Daddy bird asked “Why?”

“Because I want an older brother!” dramatically yelled the little bird. Turtle, who was still on the ground, exclaimed “That would be exiteing.” When the turtle slowly yelled that, the **baby bird** was so happy that he jumped in between the tree’s huge branches and leaves!

Sophia

Week 16

Feb. 5

While the Kids Play Soccer ...

Once there were three friends named **Jesse**, **Sophia**, and **Anna**. They calmly had a picnic with lemonade and they chit chatted a lot. Jesse asked if they wanted to play a game of soccer. Jesse, Sophia, and Anna argued who will win. Because they were hot, they put their feet in the frigid water so their feet would be cold and fresh for the soccer game. They chatted about school and sports while some creatures eyeballed their food. The three friends, **Jesse**, **Sophia**, and **Anna**, had a great time having a picnic and talking.

When the **kids** played **soccer**, they had a **blast**. Sophia won the game because she was amazing. “Sophia won the first round,” Jessie jealously yelled, “Oh, no, Anna is ahead two points.” Sophia screamed playfully. Jesse knocked over Sophia and Anna and they all fell down and laughed. Anna, who was ok at soccer, won the second round. The **kids** had a **blast** while playing an exciting game of **soccer**.

While Jesse, Sophia, and Anna **played soccer**, the sneaky animals came. The ants scattered around the picnic. The bird, which was hungry, pecked at the cake. Because of hunger, the wolf came and devoured the meat. As the kids cheerfully walk to the picnic, they kicked the ball back and forth. When the kids saw the mess, they were as angry as a lion when its meat is stolen! The furious kids screamed: “shoo, shoo! Get out of here! We should never go and **play soccer** before cleaning up our mess again”.

Eliana

Week 17

Feb. 12

An Amazing Tortoise

The **desert tortoise** who is amazingly awesome, lives in the Mojave desert. The tortoise can't swim. It can live without water for a whole year, because it gets water from the plants it munches on. This amazing tortoise also needs a large place to live with a shady and sunny spot. It also hibernates October through February. It usually weighs about 8 to 15 pounds and usually lives about eighty years. When it gets too hot, it digs a hole to keep away from the desert heat. That is an amazing **tortoise!**

Robert

Week 17

Feb. 7

The Not Completed World of Desert Tortoises

Welcome to the **world** of Desert **tortoises**! it is exceedingly easy to tell a tortoise from a turtle because tortoises have round, stumpy feet instead of webbed feet. Amazingly, Desert tortoises can survive up to 80 years. If you want a pet tortoise, you must know that they can only be given as a gift from one private owner to another. If you did have a pet tortoise, you would have five months off because they hibernate from October to February. Because I didn't tell you every single thing about every single tortoise in the **world**, that was the not complete world of Desert **tortoises**.

Addison

Week 18

Feb. 21

Desert Nomads

Nomadic people move around from **place** to place. One such group of nomads is the Bedouin, who live in the Sahara Desert. In the winter, the Bedouin live in the valleys, but in the summer, they moved to the highlands. They travel at night because they use the stars to guide them. Interestingly, these nomads have more than 160 words for camel. Modern Bedouin, sometimes have solar refrigerators that camels carry on their backs. Some Bedouin drill the ground for water, while others walk forty miles to get water from towns. The Bedouin are a remarkable group of **nomads** traveling from **place** to place.

Another group of **nomads** are an ancient Muslim people called the **Tuareg**, who also live in the Sahara. Even though they are nomadic, they also maintain a home where they grow crops. Their meals are ninety-five percent grains and dairy. These people are sometimes called the ‘blue men’ because of the blue clothes they wear. Each family has a tent that is sweetly named after the mother. On holidays, the Tuareg celebrate with camel races. The **Tuareg** are fascinating desert **nomads**.

Brendan

Week 18

Feb. 13th

A Unique Life

Bedouin nomads live in the Sahara Desert. A nomad is a member of a tribe that moves from place to place. Their main foods are dairy, dates, and grains. Some nomads are very close to a well, which gives water, and others unfortunately walk forty miles for water because they don't have a well. Sometimes when they're on a journey, they bring solar refrigerators, which the camels bring on their backs. The Bedouin language contains 160 words describing a camel that explains their size, age, and gender, etc. When they are traveling, they use the stars to lead them through. Would you want to be a **Bedouin nomad**?

The **Tuareg** are nomadic people who live in the **Sahara desert**. They are also ancient Muslim people. Their diet strictly contains goat milk, goat cheese, and numerous grains. They were nicknamed "Blue Men" because they wear blue cloths on their heads and on their faces. On a holiday, they celebrate with camel races. When they have an opportunity, they play soccer, they race, and they wrestle. Before their bedtime, the families make some music with an amzad, which is a one-stringed bowed instrument, played only by women, and tende drums. The Bedouins and the **Tuaregs**, who live in the **Sahara desert**, have very unique lives.

Anna P.

Week 19

March 5

Racing Entertainment

Horse racing is an **exciting** sport which takes place in the Middle East and Mongolia. At the end of most horse races, the winner will receive a car or cash prize. Many race horse owners, who are living in poverty, pride themselves on their race horses. Because the courses are six hundred miles long, the owners will switch out horses to protect them from becoming too tired. The horses are also prized for their beauty and strength. Although **horse racing** can be fun and **exciting**, it is also highly dangerous and can result in many broken bones.

Mongolia is also known for **camel racing**. The Mongolia Festival, which is the largest camel race, happens once a year. The festival provides racing, costume competitions, and dancing. This two day event was created as a way to help protect the Bactrian camel. Over a thousand camels compete in this nine mile race across the Gobi Desert and provide a great source of entertainment. Camel racing is also popular in Nevada, because many camels were brought over to the United States during the Civil War to work in mines. At these races, three camels and their jockeys are let out on the track, while the audience watches anxiously to see what will happen. Although, the jockeys urge the **camels** to **run**, they instead wonder around aimlessly, providing great entertainment for the crowd.

Nevada is also known for **ostrich racing**, which is another source of great entertainment. Because it is extremely difficult to balance on the back of an ostrich, many people fall off while trying to ride. An ostrich is capable of jumping sixteen

Anna P. 2

feet in the air if no one is on its back. They can also run up to forty miles per hour, which is faster than a horse. Ostrich racing has been compared to playing a video game, because the ostrich can only move forward, backward, and side to side like a joystick. Audiences always enjoy the great entertainment of **Ostrich racing**.

Benjamin

Week 19

Feb. 27

Desert Racing

Horses are **amazing creatures**. The Mongolian horses are prized for their beauty and strength. The Mongol Derby is the longest horse race in the world. During these races, riders switch between horses because they want to protect the health of these amazing animals. While winners of these terribly long horse races earn cash prizes and cars, others go home empty-handed. Families who live in poverty prize these horses so much that they pay five thousand dollars just to buy one of these **amazing creatures**.

After the Civil War, **Americans brought** camels to Nevada because they wanted to use them in mines. Today, some silly people race camels in the US, however, it's mostly for laughs. In fact, attendees of these races describe them as "hilarious and unpredictable." Compare this to the nomads who live in the desert and depend on camels for everything they need since the animals provide food, hair and other resources. I'm glad those silly **Americans brought** camels to the US.

Horses and camels, which are both logical choices for racing, are remarkably fast; but, who needs **horses** and **camels** when you have **ostriches**? For racing an ostrich you will need special reins and a specific type of saddle. These awesome creatures can run forty miles per hour and can leap up to sixteen feet in the air. This is incredibly special because they have such skinny legs. Sometimes riders will fall off their ostriches. While some audiences feel sorry for the riders, others sometimes do not. **Horses, camels, and ostriches** are all used for desert racing.

Brendan

Week 20

March 8

Persisting through Trials

[2] **Heartland** is a **family** TV series, which is based on a series of books. In the show, the family lives on a horse farm in heartland, Canada. Amy Fleming, is the main character and her mom died in a tragic car accident. She had the gift of aiding injured horses, and her mother seems to have passed on that gift to her daughter Amy since she also works well with horses. Friends bring racehorses to them because they haven't been winning, and Amy works patiently with them. She has also worked with show jumping horses. The **Heartland family** has persisted through many trials, but with love they make it through these difficult situations.

Joshua

Week 20

March 8

The Jeckel's Hide

The **jeckel** is a type of leopard-**canine**, which has six legs and a **magnificent, silky hide**. It lives in the desert and is a carnivore. Its favorite meal is a tasty snake. It can spit poison, which is extremely deadly. Since the ruthless jeckel has razor sharp teeth, it can devour its prey in minutes. Amazingly, it can leap over two hundred feet into the air. The jeckel is one of the most endangered creatures on the planet because trappers desire its hide. [2] In fact, the **jeckel's luxurious hide** is worth over two million dollars, making it one pricey **pooch!**

Anna K.

Week 21

April 10

My Imaginary Room

In **my room** there are plenty of **secrets** which are full of magical wonders. There is a mirror with a secret code which is the only way to open it. Inside the wonderful first room. There are rows of empty shelves. Whatever object you wish for will appear on the wide brown shelves. Through the second door there is every type of food you can imagine. When you go through the beautifully decorated third door there is the dream room whatever you want to dream about while you sleep, you dream! last but not least, there is the fourth room which is the time room. You pick a time if you please so that when you come out it is that time because it might otherwise be boring when you come back out. Now you know the **secrets** that are kept hidden in **my room**.

Inside **my room** I have bunk beds which are **bonk-your-head bouncy**. This is because of two things. First, that's their name: bunk beds. Second my room is magical. As soon as you sit down on top of my bed you bounce like crazy like you are flying. You can also fall asleep right away if you wish. It is always exciting to bounce and it's never boring. You would love my room because it would make every day lively. Now when you come to **my room** you will be ready for my imaginary bunk beds which are **extra-ordinarily bouncy**.

Joshua

Week 21

March 15

The Sweetest Shop on Earth

LaKings Confectionary, which is in **Galveston**, Texas, is a **popular candy store**. It is located in historical downtown Galveston on Strand Street. The street is neatly lined with whimsical shops and merchants. During the day, the intoxicating aroma lures customers with its sweet smells. Since it is so tempting, one cannot resist the delicious confectionaries on display. Because of the wide variety, it is also bustling with customers, making it **Galveston's** most **popular sweet shop**.

Upon entering LaKings, shiny candy cases line the walls. There is an old fashioned soda fountain at the bar and homemade ice cream if you desire something cold. The scrumptious taffy, which is made right before your eyes, is amazingly tasty. There are many choices of treats including fine chocolates, colorful rock candy, bubble gum and gummies. Because of this, it is difficult to choose just one. **When you enter LaKings** Confectionary in Galveston, Texas, you know you've found the sweetest shop on earth.

Joshua

Week 22

April 10

My Wonderful Sister

Today I'll acquaint you with my **wonderful sister**, who is really sweet and understanding. Her name is Betsy, which means "consecrated to God." [2] Outside we play together, and I enjoy her company a lot. For instance, we will ride bikes together. If I fall down outside, she'll try to cheer me up. Because I am the little brother, she has many opportunities to forgive me. Those are just a few of the ways of how she is a **precious sister**.

Betsy is ready to help whenever I need her, which is awesome. Because we both play the piano, and sometimes I'll need help if I don't understand something, she will assist me. Sometimes she'll clean my messy room or make my bed. [2] If she is happy, she might do my lunch dishes, which is remarkably kind. In our small kitchen she sometimes helps my mom cook. **She** is **wonderful** in other ways too.

One of Betsy's **hobbies** is **art**, which I believe she enjoys a lot. Because one time she painted a magnificent picture of a beautiful mountain with water gracefully flowing in front of it, she proved herself to be a very detailed person. All of her drawings are fabulous. In just these three paragraphs, I hope you can understand how much I appreciate Betsy since she is so dear to me. I'm sure drawing or **painting** is a great **hobby** for my wonderful sister.

Aaron

Week 23

April 24

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

I enjoyed visiting with you for Easter because it was a special celebration for Grandma. [2] Throughout our visit, we were able to participate in the different lovely Easter festivities. Although we were able to visit with both of you for four days, I did not get to share with you about somethings I do in Oklahoma. I want to tell you about my **reading**, my amazing soccer season, and the **house**, which we just moved into.

[2] As you know, I have **dyslexia**, which means I have trouble with **reading**. In the years passed, my mom and dad discovered a fantastic reading teacher. This program, which is designed for dyslexic students, helps to teach me how to read and spell. Because my reading teacher lives in Wisconsin, I use a lap top and an iPad to complete my extremely challenging lessons. I am currently in book four of the reading program. **Dyslexia** is hard, but I am learning how to **read** with the Barton program.

Because you know I play soccer, I am going to tell you more about my team and **soccer season**. I am on Junior Galaxy, which is the best team. [2] During soccer practice, we do scrimmages, drills, and violently racing sprints. Our coach, who is very nice, is named Erin. This has been a beast of a year because I have scored four goals and we have won four games and lost one game. Although we are playing a good season, we still have four games left to play. **Soccer season** is the activity that I enjoy the most.

Aaron 2

[2] At our new **house**, we have more **space** to spread out inside and outside. Because we have more bedrooms, Gus and I can share a room. A room has two bookshelves and two beds. We also have a bathroom that we share with our brothers, who are Tony and Xander. While we play outside, we can climb trees, jump on the trampoline, play basketball, and hunt through the tall trees. Our new house is incredibly amazing because of the **space** it has for our family.

I am grateful that I can share with you about my **reading** program, **soccer season**, and the new **house**. Most of all, I love that we could be with you for Easter. When you visit us in June, I will show you all the exciting things that we do in Oklahoma, which include our soccer club and house. [2] On your way to Oklahoma, please drive safely because we are anxious to see you both again!

Most sincerely,

Aaron

Anna K.

Week 23

April 24

Dear Andrew Pudewa,

Thank you for instructing me continuously. Although the assignments were difficult, class was funny and writing is enjoyable because you pick excellent topics. [2] Throughout class, I have admired that you are a great teacher, who has excellent teaching skills, and I loved the class very much.

The **assinments**, which I do at **home**, are a little bit **difficult** while they are tiring. Writing class is not boring because it is exciting. [2] At the end of the year now I can barely believe we started with one easy paragraph and you helped us reach up to five. I loved class. Before I never imagined I could write a story. **Assignments at home are long.**

Class is extremely **funny**. One of the reasons is because of the jokes. Class is funny all the time. My favorite jokes which is funny is the bird joke. [2] Since I believe you love jokes I'll tell you one: If I were an outside writing utensil, what would I say to another outdoor writing utensil? What do you want to chalk about? The reason why I told you that joke is because this pargraph is about how **class** is **hilarrious**.

Writing is very **thrilling**. [2] With using this pen and many others and with help from you I have written over twenty papers some of which were easy. Alas some were difficult. When I write my rough draft now, the beautiful words just come to me because I have my key word outline. Although the key word outline is

Anna K. 2

harder, writing the fascinating story is worth it. I do not expect I will ever write a two-sentence story again. I will be looking forward to the next thrilling class.

Writing is a very **exciting** and lovely activity.

[2] To conclude this letter there are three more sentences to speak of which are important. In writing class, the assignments are fascinating but hard, and class was funny, even if I already knew the jokes. Unfortunately, the most tragic thing is that we will not be meeting a lot throughout the summer. The reason why this is tragic is because I adore class.