

Narrative**Grade 3****My Lost Kittens**

One sunny day my mom and I took our kittens for a walk around our house. The kittens were very excited because it was their first time. My kittens names are Flounder and Aerial. Aerial is a girl and Flounder is a boy with a circle on his side. They are both the color yellow and white. When we took the kittens outside we had to be very careful so they would not get loose. Then a car drove by. It scared them and they ran. Their harnesses got loose and they went into the woods. We went inside to put away the harnesses and the leashes. Then we went back outside to look for them in the woods. We looked left and right but we couldn't find them. We went back home to make signs to put up that said: LOST KITTENS yellow and white call 569-9823. We were very sad. After a few mouths still no one could find them. But when we were looking for them the kittens were look for us they really wanted to find their way home. The kitten aske a cat named Shadow for help. Shadow said they lived next door but they were not home the were on vacation. Shadow brought them inside to Theresa. When Theresa saw them she knew who they lived with. Theresa took care of them until we came home she called us and siad "I

Establishes a situation and introduces a narrator and characters

Uses temporal words and phrases to signal event order

Uses descriptions of actions and feelings to show the response of characters to situations.

Uses dialogue and descriptions of thoughts to develop events

have a surprise for you!!” I thought that she had found our care for them. They also had to pay more money if they had kids because they **have** to kittens. When we went over to her house we followed her up to the bedroom and saw a cage when she opened the door. We saw our kittens in it. We were so happy that we went right over and unlocked it. The kittens ran out of the cage and over to us. We took them home and thanked Theresa. We were very happy to see them. And they were happy to us too.

Spelling problems, including typos, are in yellow

Missing apostrophes are in blue

Grammar and word choice problems are in pink

This third-grade narrative begins by introducing the main characters (“my mom and I took our kittens...”) and establishing a situation (“we took the kittens outside”). The story revolves around a central problem, the kittens are lost, and organizes a sequence of events that unfolds naturally toward the resolution of the problem—when the kittens are returned. Although the story can be a bit confusing in spots (“Shadow said they lived next door but they were not home the were on vacation”), temporal word and phrases (“then”, “After a few mouths”, “when”) signal event order and move the reader through the story.

This young writer is beginning to experiment effectively with techniques like dialogue (“I have a surprise for you!!”), as well as descriptions of thoughts (“I thought that she had found our kittens.”), feelings (“We were very sad”) and actions (“We went back home to make signs.”) to develop the events in the story. The last lines provide a sense of closure (“We were very happy to see them. And they were happy to [see] us too.”).

This sample of student writing, aligned to the Common Core and annotated to show its strengths, is drawn from the In Common project. You can find more writing samples and learn more here:

<http://achievethecore.org/page/507/in-common-effective-writing-for-all-students>