

Narrative**Grade 4****The Huanted House**

There once was a dog who roamed an alley with another dog. That dog's name was Max. The other dog's name was Rocky. Max and Rockey were brother and sister, although **the** look nothing alike. In another alley not far from Max and Rocky's there was a dog and a cat who lived together in that alley. The dog's name was Surgar and the cat's name was **shantell**. One day they all met behind a **trachcan** and became best buds.

Introduces main characters

One day while all the friends were out walking in the street and then Shantell (thecat) spotted a ghost flying around in a house and took off running to go see the ghost. Then all the dogs took off **afterer** her. When the dogs **finaly cought** up to Shantell they were all deep in the **huanted** house. Max and Surgar started to shake. Rocky and Shantell started to quake. Then a loud Boom came from the floor above them. After, Max got a **brillent** idea. They should sneak up on the monsters and attack them.

Orients the reader by establishing a situation

Finally all four animals were ready to put their **maniecle** plan into action. Shantell tip-toed up the mantel while Max and Surgar went up the back stairs. Which left Rockey creeping up the were ready to attack the monsters they heard music. **The** went **alot** like this "Shake, Shake shake

Uses a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events

Uses concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey events precisely

dem bones now!" The friends were confused but quickly got back on track. Shantell gave the ready signal and they all jumped up.

They were surprized to see what they saw. They saw about a dozen monsters doing the monster mash. One of the vampires said "Come in dogs and cats. Why don't you dance with us. So Max, Rocky, Surgar and Shantell danced with the monsters."

Uses dialogue and description of actions, thoughts, and feelings to **develop events** and **show the response of characters to situations**

Provides a conclusion that follows from the narrated events

Spelling problems, including typos, are in yellow

Punctuation problems are in green

Grammar and word choice problems are in pink

The first paragraph of this fourth-grade narrative introduces the four main characters and the relationship between them. In the second paragraph, the writer sets up the story, establishing an event (the ghost chase) that brings the characters into the haunted house, where most of the story takes place. The sequence of events unfolds naturally and the writer develops these events with concrete, sensory details ("they heard music. The went alot like this"), dialogue ("Why don't you dance with us"), and descriptions of thoughts, actions, and feelings ("they were surprized"). Transitional words ("one day", "then", "after", "finally") manage the sequence of events. The story comes to a satisfying conclusion, which is developed over the course of the last paragraph.

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>