Student Sample: Grade 5, Informative/Explanatory

The informative writing that follows was produced in class.

Author Response: Roald Dahl

By:

Roald Dahl is a very interesting author to me. That's because he knows what a kid wants to hear. He has a "kid's mind". He is the only author that I know that makes up interesting words like Inkland, fizz wizard, and gobble funkling. All his stories are the same type. I don't mean the same story written again and again. What I mean is that they all have imagination, made up words, and disgusting thoughts. Some of his stories that have those things are Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, The Witches and Danny the Champion of the World. The Witches is the book that I am reading right now, and it is like The BFG, another book that is by Roald Dahl. They are alike because in The BFG, Sophie and the BFG, (the big friendly giant), are trying to stop other giants from eating human beings. The Witches has the same problem. The Boy, (he has no name), is trying to stop the witches from turning children into small mice, and then killing the mice by stepping on them. Both stories have to stop evil people from doing something horrible.

Roald Dahl uses a lot of similes. Some similes that he used that I like are: Up he shot again like a bullet in the barrel of a gun. And my favorite is: They were like a chorus of dentists' drills all grinding away together. In all of Roald Dahl's books, I have noticed that the plot or the main problem of the story is either someone killing someone else, or a kid having a bad life. But it is always about
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Roald Dahl is a very interesting author to me. That’s because he knows what a kid wants to hear. He has a “kid’s mind”. He is the only author that I know that makes up interesting words like Inkland, fizz wizard, and gobble funking. All his stories are the same type. I don’t mean the same story written again and again. What I mean is that they all have imagination, made up words, and disgusting thoughts. Some of his stories that have those things are Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, The Witches and Danny the Champion of the World. The Witches is the book that I am reading right now, and it is like The BFG, another book that is by Roald Dahl. They are alike because in The BFG, Sophie and the BFG, (the big friendly giant), are trying to stop other giants from eating human beings. The Witches has the same problem. The Boy, (he has no name), is trying to stop the witches from turning children into small mice, and then killing the mice by stepping on them. Both stories have to stop evil people from doing something horrible. Roald Dahl uses a lot of similes. Some similes that he used that I like are: Up he shot again like a bullet in the barrel of a gun. And my favorite is: They were like a chorus of dentists’ drills all grinding away together. In all of Roald Dahl’s books, I have noticed that the plot or the main problem of the story is either someone killing someone else, or a kid having a bad life. But it is always about
something terrible. All the characters that Roald Dahl ever made were probably fake characters. A few things that the main characters have in common are that they all are poor. None of them are rich. Another thing that they all have in common is that they either have to save the world, someone else, or themselves.

Annotation

The writer of this piece

- introduces the topic clearly, provides a general observation and focus, and groups related information logically.
  - Roald Dahl is a very interesting author to me. That's because he knows what a kid wants to hear.

- develops the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
  - He is the only author that I know that makes up interesting words like Inkland, fizz wizard, and gobble funking.
  - Roald Dahl uses a lot of similes. Some similes that he used that I like are: Up he shot again like a bullet in the barrel of a gun. And my favorite is: They were like a chorus of dentists' drills all grinding away together.
  - In all of Roald Dahl's books, I have noticed that the plot or the main problem of the story is either someone killing someone else, or a kid having a bad life.

- links ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses.
  - The Witches is the book that I am reading right now, and it is like The BFG, another book that is by Roald Dahl. They are alike because . . .

- uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
  - Roald Dahl uses a lot of similes.
  - I have noticed that the plot or the main problem of the story . . .
  - All the characters . . .

- demonstrates good command of the conventions of standard written English (with occasional errors that do not interfere materially with the underlying message).
Student Sample: Grade 5, Narrative

This narrative was produced in class, and the writer likely received feedback from her teacher and peers.

Getting Shot

and living through it

by
We were in the darkness filled mountain top cold waiting room. We were preparing for the shots or our lives. Getting shots for malaria and more.

There were many little cells all crowded to the edge. It was hard to see the walls in the many dark but it seemed to be some sort of faded brown. The room was huge and huge when gave it was the more reason to be terrified. We knew what would be coming. It was the form of the tiny, evil, any thing.

There were also doors. Three doors, which were also brown and also faded. One was the way in. Not the way out. Unfortunately. Another was the way to the other in places. With the evil hallway and the evil office. The last door was the most evil. The shot room.

The rest of the room was filled with families, including my family or me. My five year old self.
I had had shots before. They were not your best shots, papa. I had a long run in the flu shot. That is a big thing. It was the one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten。

The door creaked open. It was the nurse. She had the patient's chart. That was a big thing. It was the one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

The day was done. I had seen enough. I had had enough. I had seen the end. I had seen the end of the world.
I was transferred with my mom and dad to a different hospital. My mom was in the delivery room. It was very scary. I didn't want to think. It was coming, I'm not sure what I was thinking. I was scared. I was already nervous. When I didn't, it was worse. It was going to be worse.
Annotation

The writer of this piece

- orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing the narrator.
  - We were in the darkness filled, mountain-top cold, waiting room. We were preparing for the shots of our lives.

- organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and uses a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events.
  - Trevor went first. . . . It was my turn. . . . When Taryn had her turn . . .

- uses narrative techniques to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
  - Humor through exaggeration: Before the shot was even touching him he was already howling. When it did hit him he was yelling loud enough to deafen you.
  - Reporting a character's thoughts: I was paralyzed with fear, I was death-defyed, I was scared.
  - Pacing: It touched, entered my flesh, and fulfilled it's job. I started with a whimper the, BOOM! full blast cry.

- uses concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
  - We were in the darkness filled, mountain-top cold, waiting room. We were preparing for the shots of our lives.
  - There were also doors. Three doors, which were also brown and also faded. One was the way in. Not the way out unfortunately.
  - The rest of the room was filled with families. Including my family of five. My five year old self, my three year old bother, and my one year old sister.

- provides a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events (emphasizing closure by the use of sentence fragments).
  - We opened the door and the sparkling sun blinded our eyes. It was over. All over. Finally.

- demonstrates good command of the conventions of standard written English (with occasional errors that do not interfere materially with the underlying message).