



**GRADE 4**  
**Writing**

**Administered March 2016**

**RELEASED**



# WRITING



# WRITTEN COMPOSITION

## WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

**READ** the information in the box below.

No matter how old we are, we can always have fun.

**THINK** about the fun things you get to do as a fourth grader.

**WRITE** about one reason you like being in the fourth grade. Tell what you like and explain why you like it.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing in detail
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO  
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON  
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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# REVISING AND EDITING

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Claire wrote this story about a boy who overcame a fear. Read Claire's story and look for the revisions she needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



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## **Now or Never**

(1) Jared felt dizzy as he looked over the cliff. (2) The ground seemed to be a long way down. (3) His camp counselor, Andrea, smiled up at him. (4) She gave Jared a thumbs-up. (5) Jared gulped. (6) He still wasn't sure he could do this.

(7) All week at camp Jared had eyed the tall cliff. (8) He had seen other campers rappelling down the side of it. (9) It looked so cool—but so scary at the same time! (10) Jared wanted to do it, and it was to rappel.

(11) Now Jared was hooked up to a rope by a complicated mass of straps. (12) He was at the top of the cliff with him, saying something about how strong the rope was. (13) He explained that Jared didn't need to be afraid because the rope and straps would hold an elephant. (14) "Nice to know," Jared said. (15) At the bottom of the cliff, Andrea was also connected to the rope.

(16) It was time. (17) "Now or never," Jared thought. (18) Keeping his eyes on the counselor at the top, he slowly leaned back. (19) He felt the strong, straight rope in his hands. (20) Jared gripped it tightly and leaned out as far as he could stretch. (21) Step, step, step—his feet took turns creeping down the side of the cliff. (22) He was doing it! (23) Jared was actually rappelling! (24) He made his way steadily down. (25) A grin began to spread over his face. (26) He went faster and faster until his last step was more like a jump. (27) Jared suddenly realized that he had made it to the bottom. (28) His legs were still a bit shaky as he gave Andrea a high five. (29) But Jared knew exactly what his first words would be now that he had made it down.

- 1 Claire wants to strengthen the focus of her story. Which of the following is the **BEST** replacement for sentence 10?
- A Being at camp had been a wonderful experience for Jared and the other kids.
  - B Jared was sometimes a little afraid to do things he had never done before.
  - C Today was Jared’s last chance to overcome his fear and give rappelling a try.
  - D Even though the others had been rappelling down the side of the cliff, Jared didn’t want to.
- 

- 2 The meaning of sentence 12 is unclear. What change can Claire make to improve the clarity of this sentence?
- F Change **He** to **Another counselor**
  - G Change **cliff** to **spot**
  - H Change **him** to **them**
  - J Change **the rope** to **it**
- 

- 3 Which of these sentences can **BEST** follow and support sentence 15?
- A She would help keep the rope tight and make sure Jared was safe coming down.
  - B Andrea had been such a good friend, and looking down at her right now made Jared think of all the fun they had had.
  - C Jared was feeling great and stepped back from the cliff to look around at all the beautiful scenery.
  - D Andrea was right there, connected to the rope that Jared was connected to at the bottom of the cliff.

- 4 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 24 and 25?
- F Since he made his way steadily down with a grin, it began to spread over his face.
  - G He made his way steadily down because a grin began to spread over his face.
  - H As he made his way steadily down, a grin began to spread over his face.
  - J He made his way steadily down a grin began to spread over his face.
- 

- 5 Claire forgot to include an important detail in the last paragraph (sentences 16–29).

*With trembling legs he took his first step.*

Reread the paragraph carefully. Where is the **BEST** place to insert this sentence?

- A After sentence 19
  - B After sentence 20
  - C After sentence 21
  - D After sentence 26
- 
- 6 Claire’s paper ends abruptly and leaves the reader wondering what happens next. Which sentence should Claire add to the end of her paper?
- F He had made it down and had actually rappelled.
  - G “Where’s my snack?” he asked the counselors.
  - H He didn’t have a doubt about what he wanted to say.
  - J “Can I do it again?” he shouted with excitement.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Molly's teacher asked her to write a paper about her favorite possession. Molly wants you to read her paper and look for any corrections she needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



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## **My Prized Possession**

(1) Every night as I climb into bed, I whisper, "Good night, guys."  
(2) I'm not talking to people who share my room. (3) I'm talking to my prized possession, my favorite red tennis shoes.

(4) These shoes have become more than just footwear to me.  
(5) They have become my friends. (6) Because I'm small for a 10-year-old girl, my feet grow slowly. (7) That fact has allowed me to become quite attached to my red canvas sneakers over the last two years.

(8) People say that friendships are formed by shared experiences.  
(9) My red sneakers and I have shared many! (10) There were hard times, like when we climbed the backyard tree and fell. (11) I sprained an ankle, and one of my tennis shoes suffered a broken lace. (12) But mostly, we've shared good times. (13) For the fourth-grade class hike, a lot of kids wore new hiking shoes, they were sturdy. (14) I wore my old sneakers. (15) Ashley's fancy new shoes rubbed a blister. (16) Gabby's did, too. (17) My red tennies and I just kept trekking along, comfortable

as could be. (18) Another time my class sponsored a run to help support our school. (19) Friends and family members pledged money for each lap we ran. (20) Because my legs are kind of short, I usually lag behind when I run with others. (21) I thought about skipping the Event altogether. (22) But then I saw my tennis shoes in the corner of my room. (23) Like a true friend, it encouraged me. (24) I decided that with those sneakers on my feet, I could do anything!

(25) Nothing I own means as much to me as those old shoes do. (26) They give me comfort and confidence. (27) Unfortunately, I must admit that they're also starting to give me blisters. (28) Soon I will have to tell my parents that my feet are outgrowing them. (29) I've already reserved a spot on my shelf where my red tennis shoes can retire. (30) I'm glad that I'll still be able to crawl into bed and whisper, "Good night, guys." (31) And I hope I can find a new, bigger pair just like them!

7 How does sentence 4 need to be changed?

- A Change ***have become*** to **has become**
  - B Change ***then*** to **than**
  - C Change ***to me*** to **too me**
  - D Sentence 4 does not need to be changed.
- 

8 What change needs to be made in sentence 10?

- F Change ***were*** to **was**
  - G Change ***climmed*** to **climbed**
  - H Change ***fell*** to **falled**
  - J No change needs to be made.
- 

9 What is the correct way to write sentence 13?

- A For the fourth-grade class hike, there were a lot of kids they wore new hiking shoes that were sturdy.
- B For the fourth-grade class hike. A lot of kids wore new hiking shoes, and they were sturdy.
- C For the fourth-grade class hike, a lot of kids wore new hiking shoes. That were sturdy.
- D For the fourth-grade class hike, a lot of kids wore sturdy, new hiking shoes.



**10** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 21?

- F** Change *I thought* to **Thought**
  - G** Change *skipping* to **skiping**
  - H** Change *Event* to **event**
  - J** Make no change
- 

**11** How does sentence 23 need to be changed?

- A** Change *it* to **they**
  - B** Change *me* to **us**
  - C** Change the period to a comma
  - D** Sentence 23 does not need to be changed.
- 

**12** What change should be made in sentence 29?

- F** Change *Ive* to **I've**
- G** Change *already* to **alreddy**
- H** Change *where* to **were**
- J** No change should be made.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Katrina wrote the following paper about three inspiring young people. Read Katrina's paper and look for any corrections she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*

## **Kids CAN Make a Difference**

(1) Some kids think that they're too young to do anything really important, but that isn't true. (2) There are a lot of kids today who are making a big difference in the world. (3) All it takes is a good idea, a caring heart, and a determined spirit.

(4) When Abigail Lupi, of Stockholm, New Jersey, was just seven years old, she wanted to do something special for her great-grandmother's 100th birthday. (5) She learned a few songs and performed them at the assisted-living center where her great-grandmother lived. (6) While she was there, she noticed that some of the elderly residents seemed lonely. (7) Abigail enlisted the help of some friends and formed CareGirlz. (8) Today the members of CareGirlz, who range in age from 6 to 13, sing and dance at assisted-living centers, nursing homes, and children's hospitals. (9) The group has performed in more than 20 different locations, bringing joy to hundreds of people. (10) I like to brighten up people's days and help them have a fun time," says Abigail. (11) "It makes me happy to see that I'm making others happy."

(12) After a terrible earthquake shook Haiti in 2010, 12-year-old Blare Gooch, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, wanted to do something to help. (13) He saw children on television who had lost everything, and it made him sad. (14) That's when he remembered how attached he had been to his favorite teddy bear. (15) His school let him make an announcement asking kids to donate teddy bears for children in Haiti. (16) The local media found out about Blare's plan, and soon many people were donating

teddy bears. (17) All the attention prompted Blare to create an organization. (18) Called Blare's Bears for Haiti. (19) The organization collected and donated about 25,000 bears! (20) Blare wants other kids to know that they, too, can make a difference. (21) "It doesn't really matter how small or old you are," he insists. (22) "If your young and think you can't make a big difference in the world, well, you actually can."

(23) Charlie Coons, who lives in Simi Valley, California, is another example of a kid who made a difference. (24) One year her older brother volunteered at an orphanage in Egypt. (25) When he returned home, he told 11-year-old Charlie that the children at the orphanage were very cold at night. (26) Charlie couldn't bear the thought of other kids suffering. (27) With the help of some friends, she made several fleece blankets to send to the orphans. (28) But Charlie wanted to do more. (29) She began speaking to various community groups to raise money for a new organization, HELP, which stands for Hope, Encouragement, Love, and Peace. (30) HELP has now sended approximately 700 blankets to children in the Middle East, Africa, and Central America. (31) Charlie is excited about helping even more children. (32) "My goal is to touch as many lives as I can," she explains. (33) "I think this is something I will do for the rest of my life. (34) It doesn't pay anything in dollars, but there is no price tag on making a difference in a child's life."

(35) Each of these young people saw a need, and instead of waiting for an adult to address it, they jumped in and filled the need themselves. (36) Their stories show that kids really can make a difference in the world.

**13** What change should be made in sentence 4?

- A** Change *special* to *speshial*
  - B** Change *her* to *their*
  - C** Change *great-grandmothers* to *great-grandmother's*
  - D** No change should be made.
- 

**14** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 10?

- F** Insert quotation marks at the beginning of the sentence
  - G** Delete the comma
  - H** Change *says* to *say's*
  - J** Make no change
- 

**15** What is the correct way to write sentences 17 and 18?

- A** All the attention prompted Blare to create an organization. Which he called Blare's Bears for Haiti.
- B** All the attention prompting Blare to create an organization called Blare's Bears for Haiti.
- C** All the attention prompted Blare to create an organization, it was called Blare's Bears for Haiti.
- D** All the attention prompted Blare to create an organization called Blare's Bears for Haiti.

**16** What change needs to be made in sentence 22?

- F** Change ***your*** to ***you're***
  - G** Change the period to a comma
  - H** Delete the quotation marks at the end of the sentence
  - J** No change needs to be made in sentence 22.
- 

**17** What change should be made in sentence 30?

- A** Change ***has*** to ***having***
  - B** Change ***sended*** to ***sent***
  - C** Change ***to children*** to ***they have gone to children***
  - D** No change should be made.
- 

**18** What change needs to be made in sentence 35?

- F** Change ***saw*** to ***seen***
- G** Change ***instead of*** to ***instead off***
- H** Change ***address it*** to ***address them***
- J** Change ***themselfs*** to ***themselves***



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