**What Can My Students Learn by Writing?**

*Choose from the pieces below. With a colleague, speculate on the teacher’s backward design by filling out a What Can My Students Learn by Writing? Worksheet for each.*

**File Name: IK Living and non Living**

**Independent/Explanatory**

**Kindergarten**

**Range of Writing**

**Living and non Living**

Plants are living and animal are living too! we are living! rokes are not living the sun is not living ether But all of the living thigs need woter food air ligte space

**File name: I1R The Dentist**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 1**

**Range of Writing**

We should visit the dentist twice a year. He will help keep our teeth healthy and strong. If my tooth broc my dentist can repair my tooth. My dentist takes a x-ray to see in my tooth. My dentist teaches me to brush my teeth. The dentist makes sure our teeth are healthy and strong.

**File name: I2R The Lorax**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 2**

**Range of Writing**

**The Lorax**

The Lorax said he cares for the earth. The Lorax spoke for the fish. He said stop putting your left over gunk in the water because the humming fish can’t hum with gunk in their gills. The Lorax spoke for the trees. He said stop cutting the trees because they give us air. The Lorax spoke for the Brown Barbaloots. He said stop cutting trees because the Brown Barbaloots eat the fruit on the tees. The Lorax cares for the earth.

**File name: O2R Chocolate Milk**

**Argument/Opinion**

**Grade 2**

**Range of Writing**

Dear Mr. Davis,

you should serve chocolate milk because. It has 0% fat just like 0% fat white milk. Another reason is some kids will only drink choclate Milk Another reson is. they Both have the same amount of protein (8 grams) and calceum. protien Gives you energy calcium makes your bones stonger. choclate Milk is stil relly healthy even thow it has choclate in it.

**File Name: I3 Australian Animal Adaptations**

**Informational/Explanatory**

**Grade 3**

**Instructional writing**

**Australian Animal adaptations**

In the hot desert of Australia there are many animals big and small. Some of those animals are the kangaroo, the dingo, and the blue-tongued skink. All of animals in the Australian desert must be well adapted to their hot and dangerous environment. The emu and the thorny devil are well adapted to the Australian desert.

The emu in Australian has predators like many other animals. The emus have long legs and can run 50 to 60 mph to get away from predators like the dingo. This is a good adaptation so they don’t get eaten. The emu babies don’t have long legs so they can’t go fast to get away from predators. Instead of going fast they have camouflage and hid in the grass and blend in Camouflage is a very good adaptation.

The thorny devil is also very well adapted to the extremely dry desert. Even if there is almost no water the thorny devil won’t die. It won’t die because its horns direct even the smallest bit of rain or morning dew. into it’s mouth. This is a useful adaptation. Even when there is almost no water it won’t die of thirst. The thorny devil also has adaptations to aviod predators. It looks like the sand so its predators can’t see it. Camouflage is a good adaptation.

The Emu and the thorny devil must be well adapted to the harsh environment of the Australian desert. I think the emu and the thorny devil are some of the most interesting animals on earth.

**File Name: I4R Ecotourism**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Range of Writing**

*It's vacation time!!! Rey and his family are working as ecotourist. Their job is looking after turtle eggs. Rey and his family are working with biologists. When Rey and a biologist were on "turtle patrol" Rey found a nest and brought the eggs that were in it back to camp.*

Ecotourism can have bad and good effects. In keeping the balance eceotourism is described as something more complicated then it actually is. Ecotourism is really when tourists go to a country to see its wildlife. Ecotourism can help people understand wildlife but it can also harm it. This is a serious problem but there are some solutions.

Ecotourism can really ruin things. If ecotourists disturb wildlife they might wreck the ecosystem. Ecotourism can destroy plants and natural habitats. For example ecotourists might trample plants and/or scare animals and/or leave garbage everywhere. Ecotourist need lodging (Hotels and resorts) and bathrooms. These harm the environment by polluting water and destroying forests which the ecotourists would otherwise be looking at. Generally ecotourism is supposed to focus on personal growth and environmentel responsibility, but mostly it does'nt.

But there is some hope. If everybody puts their heads together we can think up some ways to improve ecotourism, environmentaly. All we really need is a few ideas to "spark" the brain storm, so here they are.

One thing we could do is just prevent ecotourism altogether. But then people might forget how to value and treat nature respectfully. Another thing we could do is set some lower limits than ther are at the moment for ecotourism.

Something else we could do is decrease the number of ecotoursts to a small average.

Another good solution is to make pathways and trams and things to keep ecotourists at a distance from wildlife. One more thing we can do to improve ecotourism is to have a class on how to treat the flora and fauna. Those are just 4 things we could to do improve ecotourism.

I think those are all the "sparks" we need. I hope these "sparks" light up peoples understanding of ecotourism.

**File Name: I5 The Gardener**

**Informational/Explanatory**

**Grade 5**

**Independent writing**

The Gardener

I read a book called “The Gardener”. It is about a girl named Lydia who goes into the city from the country to help her uncle and help him get money. It takes place during the great depression. In spite of the challenges, Lydia succeeded in being happy in the city.

It must have been tough for Lydia to leave the country and go to the city at first. She looked really sad to leave in the pictures and looked like she missed her family and her country life. It must have also been hard for her because the city and country are very different. She might think that she was unwelcome there or that people wouldn’t like her there. Also she wasn’t with her parents so she might miss them too. It is tough to miss your family. When she was in the train station it was dark and scary and she looked tiny and scared. It must not have been very fun for her there at first because everything was dark and scary. Another thing that must not have been very welcoming for her is that her uncle (she is staying with her uncle) never smiles. He always looks grumpy and depressed. It is always more nice to visit a cheerful person rather than a grumpy person.

Even though there were challenges, Lydia also succeeded in being happy. There were good things that made up for the bad things. At the beginning, when she first starts helping her uncle in his bakery, she makes friends. She met them because they work with her uncle. It is always nice to have friends wherever you go. Also, it is kind of depressing to not have friends sometimes. Another thing that made lydia happy was that she gardens, she planted flowers and made her street more happy. Everybody, (even her uncle, her uncle is always grumpy) got more cheerful after the flowers. That helped L Everybody, (even her uncle, her uncle is always grumpy) got more cheerful after the flowers. That helped Lydia a lot because for one, she likes planting flowers, and two, everybody seemed more happy and that made her have a good feeling. After that, she realizes the there is a rooftop garden but it is all dead. She plants flowers their with her friend and spruces it up. When it is finished, she brings her frowning uncle up her secret place and shows him around. He tells her to wait there and then a while later he comes up with a beautiful cake. He uncle doesn’t actually smile but Lydia thinks the cake is worth a thousand smiles. That is important to Lydia because she has been working to make her uncle smile for a long time and, her uncle is finally happy.

Now you can see how, in spite of the challenges, Lydia succeeded in living happily away from home. And, even though there are sometimes challenges in life, there are always good things too.

***What Can My Students Learn by Writing?***

What might have happened in the classroom to produce this piece of writing?

*With a partner, please speculate on the following:*

For what class/subject area might this piece have been written?

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What “Big Idea” (content area concept) is the student exploring in this piece?

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What (content area) question might the teacher have posed to focus this writing piece?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Underline** the sentence or section of the piece that most concisely expresses or summarizes this “Big Idea”.



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What kind of texts and experiences might have been used to build the knowledge and understanding needed to explore this question?

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How might the students have gathered and recorded information?

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What supports/writing instruction may have helped the student to write this piece?

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