



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

The Tell-Tale Heart

The Heart



Plot and Ideas

Some details from the original text are present (“A neighbor reported screaming”), but neither a plausible context nor new point of view is clearly established. The plot and ideas do not fulfill the purpose and/or address the demands of the task.



Development and Elaboration

The narrative does not establish a clear setting (“It was cold outside”). No new details are included to develop the narrator’s character (we never learn about the “I” who was on duty at the beginning of the narrative). There is no dialogue and minimal description is included. Most details of the narrative were already established in the original story.



Organization and Sequencing

The narrative contains a minimal sequence of events that does not go beyond the original story. Efforts at pacing are missing. Transitions and other narrative techniques to signal shifts in time or setting are missing. No resolution is established (“Then he brought some chairs to sit on”).



Language and Style

Descriptive words are unimaginative (“very late,” “pretty dark,” “cold”) and do not create imagery or convey setting and characters. Sentence structure is simple and choppy and does not build a clear voice for the narrator. The point of view is established as “I,” but it is not developed meaningfully.



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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I was on duty when I got the call about the screaming. It was late, very late, but that's when we get most of the calls. A neighbor reported screaming. The house was pretty dark except for one. We knocked anyway. We knocked again. Finally the door was opened. He said he was watching the house the owner was out of town. This made sense to us. We were ready to let it go when the man invited us. It was cold outside so we said ok. He showed us a bedroom. Then he brought some chairs to sit on.



Notes
