

Sample Writing

This story was written by a grade 4 student. While not grammatically perfect, the story is very powerful in the honest, storytelling style the writer uses. Everyone has a story to tell and writing is a wonderful way to express your experiences, thoughts, feelings, and opinions.

When I Shot My 0.410

By Jimmy Owens

It was quiet. I was on a long dock in Barnwell, SC. 2 by 8's were making x's on every other pole. Between both docks was an old beaten-up pontoon boat with no motor. Old green plastic shingles were on the roof. In one part of the roof was a hole. One of the floorboards on the dock was loose. The cleat on the floorboard was sort of rusted.

It was just my dad and me. The tall trees swayed in the faint wind. I took a deep breath. The air smelled like sweat. Dirt. Fish. It was warm August weather. When I picked up the gun, I looked at the barrel. The barrel looked like it could hold a big shell, but when I opened the barrel the hole for the shell was about a centimeter in diameter. I grabbed a shell out of my pocket. I slid the shell into the gun real easy. I snapped my wrist back to shut the barrel of the gun. The gun clicked, my hands were real sweaty. I was sort of nervous. The gun could go off.

I pulled the gun to my shoulder. I looked down the barrel and aimed for the stump that was probably there before my dad. I was still sort of nervous. Then my dad said, "Pull the trigger." I pulled the trigger hard. I didn't expect it to be so tight. The noise was loud enough to make your ears ring. The sound waves went into the woods and made one long echo. A big wide pattern of lead hit the water and made ripples. Some pellets hit the stump, but not many. A tiny piece of plastic that kept the lead from crumbling went into the water. I let out a sigh; it was like a weight was lifted off of me. I felt better. It was quiet again.

Writing Prompts:

- Write about a tragedy about your day, week, weekend, or a trip
- Write about a comedy about your day, week, weekend, or a trip
- Write about a First Time experience (The first time you did, felt, saw, heard, ... something)
- Describe "one thing you may not know about me"
- Describe your favorite day of summer (school, fall, winter, etc.)
- I made a new friend...
- View the Polar Bear Cub Video and write a viewer response
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ3FOWHP53o>
- Pick a favorite children's picture book and write a text version of the story
- Other? Options are limited only by your imagination, creativity, and the story you have to tell