

# The Creative

## Chapter Eight

# Writing Contest

Creative Writing is designed to promote creativity and encourage writing skills in young students. Contestants are given a page of pictures with captions. They may select as many pictures as they wish and create an original story based on their selections. The stories are evaluated as to relative excellence in creativity (60 percent), organization (30 percent), and grammatical correctness of style (10 percent).

Each prompt page consists of five pictures usually fun clip art representation. Students use these pictures to help them create and compose their stories, using one or more of the pictures as subjects in the story.

Unlike the Ready Writing Contest, where the title is already provided, part of the creativity challenge in Creative Writing is for a young student to come up with a great title, such as Gabe's, Great job, Gabe!

Prompts follow each group of stories.

*Writing samples are reproduced in the students exact words, spellings, and punctuation*

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## The Revenge of the Statue of Liberty

Once upon a time there was a gymnast. His name was Fred. One day he was playing his piano when a rooster flew in. He said the Statue of Liberty was alive! And attacking a lighthouse. The gymnast hopped on his jet and flew to the lighthouse. Then the rooster clawed at the house and it broke off and fell. Then the gymnast stretched and tore through the statue. But it escaped before it could be

knocked down. Just then Fred hopped into his jet and flew after the statue. Then he let his rope down and caught the statue. He let the statue drop and fall into the water. Then the gymnast went home and lived happily ever after. The End (Happy endings always make me cry.)

by Gabe Columbo

First Grade 2003

Kirby Hall School, Austin

*What Judges said about Gabe's story:*

### Judges' Comments:

— "Loved your title."

— "VERY creative."

— "Held my interest."

— "Very well thought out."

— "Great beginning, middle, and ending."

**Improvements noted:** "Correct spelling of 'gymnast' is gymnast." "Begin a new paragraph at 'Just then Fred hopped ...'"

"You are definitely on your way to being a fantastic writer."

## Rocy and the People

Once there was a rooster the rooster's name was Rocy. Rocy never slept because in the morning he would have to crow. The people on the farm were happy to hear him crow. But one morning they did not hear him crow he was gone! Rocy had seen a light far away and had decided to follow it. Rocy went all the way to the light. When he got there he saw rooster, cattle and

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•gymnast



•rooster



•Statue of Liberty



•lighthouse



•piano

ponys. there people in sleeping bags. One hour later the people there woke up. When they saw Rocy they jumped up and said, "Lets get that rooster he looks like something we could use." So they all dived for Rocy. but she ran to fast. so the people ran fast but Rocy ran as fast as a dog who had his tail on fire. Just then the people on the farm came and said,"This is our rooster and we like him." So the other people said, O.K. Take it." So they took Rocy and lived happily ever after with the rooster crowing.

by *Abigail Waddell*  
First Grade 2003  
Brownsville HOPE, Brownsville

*What the Judges said about Abigail's story:*

**Judges said:** Very creative story with plenty of action and dialog. Shows mastery of quotation punctuation. I loved that If felt many things in the story you did a great job in creating a flow so that I could. I felt sorry at the loss of the rooster, excitement at his fird, suspense, laughter then happiness and contentment. Nice work! You planned your story, then wrote. It shows.

**For improvement,** Work on grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

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## The Haunted Lighthouse

Once there was a spooky old lighthouse. A rooster once told the animals that inside the lighthouse was a ghost! All the animals were scared! The rooster said, "I've seen the ghost before it always plays sad tunes on an old piano. All the animals thought that rooster was liein. They said,"Why don't you prove it?" Rooster said, "I will." The next day at night he went to the lighthouse inside it was dark and spooky. and suddenly the piano was playing but nobody was on it! The rooster screamed! It was the most

shocking moment of his life. He ran back to the animals and told what happened. They went inside the light house with rooster and started laughing "What are you laughing about?" asked rooster. They showed rooster. "Look at this switch," they said pointing at the piano. Rooster looked "This switch makes the piano play by itself," said the animals. Rooster burst out laughing. What a spooky night it had been.

by *James Conley*  
Second Grade 2003  
St. Anne Catholic School, Beaumont

*What the Judges said about James's story:*

**The judges' positive comments** included, "Great devlopment of story and use of pictures in your story. Your story flows very well and it is a very captivating story.

"You had a climax and a great ending."

"Good sentence structure / handwriting."

**Judges suggested** that James break up his story into paragraphs to make reading easier.

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## The rooster that taught tag

Once there was a rooster called beny. Beny was a very talented rooster because he could play tag! One day beny was teching the other chicens how to play tag in the yard when the farmer saw him. "I'm going mad" he moaned "I'm seeing chicens and roosters playing tag." The next day the rooster was qwite a bit more carfull. Instead of teching them outside he taught them in the hen house. Boy was it a swing that day! Chicens and roosters were everywhere, but . . . . At feeding time the farmer came in the hen house, And when he saw what was happening he rand out dropping hen chow all over the place. This time

the rooster was very concerned if the farmer saw them in action again they would be gonners! And the farmer did see them again it was under the porch, they had picked that spot thinking the farmer would not see them there. The farmer was so scared that he sold all his chickens for a dollar. (but he kept the rooster). When the farmer got new chickens the same thing happened he caught them playing tag. Every time he sold and got chickens they played tag.

One night there was a big farm dance. Every one brought something. The farmer said "he was going to sell his tag playing chicken's and rooster." But when the old time songs came on the chickens and rooster played tag! It was a huge hit!!! form then on the tag playing chickens and rooster were even more famous than the Backstreet Boys.

The End.

by Megan Cunningham  
Second Grade 2003  
Yorkshire Academy, Houston

*What the Judges said about Megan's story:*

**Judges said:** Wow! What a fun story. Your story flowed smoothly from beginning to end. I was glad to see you attempt to use punctuation marks, including parentheses.

Excellent vocabulary.

**For improvement,** More detail describing what Beny looked like. What did he wear? What color were his feathers?

Work on grammar, spelling, and end punctuation.

Keep up the good work!

## Arnold forgets his lunch

In a red tiny cottage in Paris there lived a young boy named Arnold. Arnold ate a lot and was on his second yummy bowl of cereal when Arnold's dad walked out the door to teach guitar lessons at U.T.B. Arnold knew his bus was coming soon so he skipped outside and sat on his driveway waiting patiently for his blue school bus to arrive. Then the school bus arrived and Arnold hoped on and was on his way to learn more at his wooden school. But then Arnold noticed something he had forgotten - his lunch but he knew he couldn't turn back now. When he got at school he was trying to hear what the teacher said but the kids in the pre-school room were too noisy playing with blocks. Then the bell rang and everybody but Arnold raced to the cafeteria with their lunch boxes but Arnold just limped slowly slowly. The teacher noticed it and asked "Why are you so sad Arnold?" Because I forgot my lunch," Arnold replied. "Then why don't you eat the food that's made in the cafeteria?" Arnold had never done this before. he never even knew about it so his teacher gave him some money. Arnold dashed into the cafeteria and never worried about forgetting his lunch

by Max Kriegel  
First Grade 2004  
HOPE, Brownsville

**Judges said:** Excellent story! I bet you will be a famous writer some day. Great use of details and adjectives (yummy bowl, guitar lessons at U.T.B., waiting patiently) Good word choices — arrived, noticed, replied, dashed. Interesting problem I liked that you had a question. — Why are you so sad Arnold? You have nice handwriting and your spelling is wonderful.

**For improvement,** capitalize titles and names. Try adding a simile or metaphor. You could try adding a list like named some food in the cafeteria that he saw.

## The Violin

One day, when I woke up, I saw my breakfast on the table, but did not see my mom and dad. I looked everywhere, but could not find them. I went in my front yard to look for my parents, but didn't see them. In the front yard, I was getting worried about my parents. Suddenly, I saw a violin that played a note and said, "Play me, then I will take you to your parents." I was very happy to hear that so I played the violin. Suddenly, I realized I was flying so I said, "This is a magical violin."

I flew over parks and trees, while flying, I wanted to touch the flying birds, but the violin said, "Don't touch the birds. You may hurt them. I will get you balloons." I was very happy to hear that. When I saw a park filled with balloons, I dropped the violin on the ground and landed in a park.

When I saw my parents I ran towards my mom and said, "Where have you been? I have been looking for you all morning." My dad gave me a big hug, smiled and said, "We have been decorating this park for your surprise birthday party." I looked around and saw that he helped me go there right next to the birthday cake. I smiled, but did not say anything.

by Divya Kumpella

First Grade 2006

Rubicon Academy, The Woodlands

*What the Judges said about Divya's story:*

**Judges said** Exciting plot. Good use of conversation. Creative ideas. Words paint a picture. Distinct beginning, middle and end.

**You might** in rewriting the story, mention the birthday earlier. Ending was a little quick. A few more details needed.

## The Cute Puppy

Once there was a girl named Mariam She told her mom "Can I have a puppy" her mom said "of course." So they went to the pet store Mariam picked a puppy that was black and white. When Mariam went home with her new puppy the puppy was so happy but when he ate his food he turned into a frog and Mariam was sad and she didn't want to eat anything. The next day she went to school and saw a girl feeding a bone to her puppy and at that moment she figured her mistake. She went home and fed a bone to her frog and the frog turned into a puppy. It was the happiest day of Mariam's life.

by Nuzhat Ahmed

Second Grade 2006

Darul Arqam School, Houston

*What the Judges said about Stephanie's story:*

**Judges said:** "Interesting story idea that had a cute problem with good solution. I like that giving the frog a bone turned him back into a puppy - creative. The puppy that turns into the things he eat gave your story a great start. The story had a good introduction and closing."

**For improvement,** the judges just noted that the story had a lack of proper punctuation, making the reading more difficult. "Add more detail - what did Miriam do when the puppy turned into a frog? What did the puppy do that showed he was happy? The story is a wonderful idea that lacks a middle and complete ending."

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saleslady



violin



puppy



cup and saucer



bottle

## The Cell Phone that Didn't Work

One day a cellphone did not work. And the grandfather needed to call the movies to get some tickets. He brought it to his house and broke it apart. He saw the problem. There was a thumb-tack in it. "How did that get there" Said grandfather?"

"I am going to take it out" said grandfather. So he pulled the thumb-tack. And it was a blue thumbtack he could not get it out. So he went to the zoo and had a giraffe step on it. And it was a yellow giraffe with orange spots. The thumbtack poked the giraffe he started eating a bunch of leaves to com he's self down. And then he stomped and rolled around. And the zoo keeper ran to the giraffe. And saw the thumb tack and cellphone and the thumbtack. Was out and he could call the movies and he had a good time at the movies!

by *Gabrielle McBee*

First Grade 2002

John Paul II Catholic School, Houston

*What the Judges said about Gabrielle's story:*

**The judges said:** "Good use of pictures. Creating and solving a problem go together very well. Nice ending to your story."

**Under areas that could be improved,** the judges noted that the contestant should work on NOT using "And" to start so many sentences. They commented, "Try to stay with one topic for your story." And they asked, "Wouldn't the cell phone break when the giraffe stepped on it?"

## The Mountain Adventure

Once upon a time, there was a giraffe. His name was Small. Small was a very small giraffe. One winter day he planned to draw a picture, he said, "I think I will draw a picture of a raft floating down a river. He painted the river with sparkling water, then, he painted the raft. When he was finishedHe said, "I love this work I did." He leaned over to get a closer look at his bright picture, but then, he fell into the picture. HE FELL IN!!! Awhile later, he found himself on the raft! Floating the river! He floated for awhile until he saw some high, high mountains with snow-caped tops. It looked so awesome! So he decided to climb them. He walked up the mountain, but he needed to go a lot farther if he wanted to get to the top, he said, "I'll never makeit to the top!" In a little while, he started to get hungry, but he wanted to get to the top. Very soon he was getting cold. "I will ss still get to the top." He said. Small needed to go just ten feet until he got to the top. The wind was blowing hard he could not do it, but he had to! He finnaly with all his strenth left, he did it, but then he tumbled down and landed in a soft patch of snow he got up and found his raft. Thehe got out his markers and colord a picture of his home on the raft. he jumed in and fell into his home. The End.

by *Ethan Dirks*

Second Grade 2002

Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio

## *What the Judges said about Ethan's story:*

First, we give additional praise to Ethan for having two Creative Writing stories selected for publication — He was the State winner in both first and second grade. CONGRATULATIONS! We look forward to seeing your name as author of a best seller some day!

About this story, the judges said: "This is a wonderful story that contains the necessary elements to keep a reader's interest. You

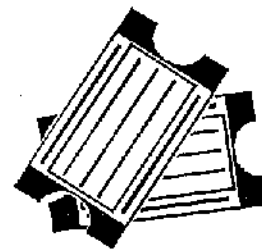
really made me laugh and wonder "What will happen to this little giraffe?" "Your story was very creative. You even made the readers feel cold." Good vocabulary, too. I really liked it when the giraffe stuttered because he was so cold."

**Improvements:** The ending is a bit rushed. Take time to plan and organize all your thoughts. You could have included a few less details in the middle so that you would have had more time to spend on the ending. I'm glad he made it home, though!

## Prompts used in the 2002 State Creative Writing Contest



thumbtack



tickets



grandfather



cell phone



giraffe