

Student #1 Teacher Comment

I chose Student #1's response as an example of a distinguished second grader's writing. Student #1's sample demonstrates her ability to answer the questions in the written directions and to write from the perspective of a statue. When she changes verb tenses in the course of her writing, it appears to me to reflect a real identification of herself as a statue. Length of writing does not by itself indicate a level of mastery. However, second graders who are not as comfortable with the writing process will limit the number of words in a sentence as well as the number of sentences included in an assignment.

Student #1's sentences are anything but short. In this response, she basically answers the questions posed in the directions in her first three sentences. However, she then goes on to elaborate on what it might be like to be that statue in front of our school. Additionally, her writing shows a variety and sophistication in sentence structure. Sentence beginnings include the use of prepositional phrases rather than the more typical second grader's use of a subject/verb construction. A couple of times she uses the subjunctive mood.

A greater knowledge of punctuation is evident in her use of an exclamation point, a hyphen and commas. Proficiency in spelling is obvious. Her only error is that of a there/their substitution. Student #1 reads fluently with nice expression and confidence. She demonstrates an understanding of how punctuation determines your inflection.