

Grammar Focus:Textbook Edition

(BTC Units 1-4 & 6-24 Links)

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CCSS / PARCC

Writing Tasks

Combining grammar instruction with creative or directed student writing has never been easier for the teacher and more fun for the students! This Grammar Focus tool has proven to be a great asset to me in my efforts to get students to *re-connect* their *dis-connects* when it comes to actually *applying* grammar and punctuation rules to their personal reading and writing projects!

This process works really well for me when teaching the Grammar Focus:

1. Have students correct the sentences as they think each should be. (5 minutes)
2. Ask a student to reveal how many corrections he or she made in the 1st sentence!
3. Ask for a show of hands of those who came up with the same number.
4. If the student's number wasn't quite right, repeat with another student!
5. This makes the process a game the students love to play! After the right answer surfaces, or someone gets pretty close to it, congratulate the winner(s) and verify that the answers were indeed accurate!
6. At the end of the verifying process, have a student read the sentences together as a single story and paraphrase it. The theme of the story will be the theme of the accompanying writing prompt.
7. Students now get to immediately *apply* their recently practiced grammar and punctuation skills to an authentic writing situation that always relates to the theme of the scene!
8. Have students use the attached Thirty-Six Stars Rubric to both guide their paragraph(s) content and organization and also to score it (them) using a "trade & grade" approach! It's fun and productive!

Grammar Focus (BTC Unit-1 Link)

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Name _____ Date _____ Pd. _____

Correct the following sentences for grammar and punctuation. On the lines adjacent to each sentence, note the number of corrections that you made. Then, read the sentences as one story and relate the message(s) to the prompt that follows.

Grammar Focus (BTC Unit-1)

1. by far his most interesting family member was his great grandfather
running bear _____
2. one of little foxs greatest talents was telling spine tingling storys that
his great grandfather had told him _____
3. the most fascinating of these stories was about a enormous male
grizzly bear that attacked there village one snowy evening _____
4. this bear however was no match for the mammoth like power of his
great grandfather _____
5. though little foxs account wasnt completed in the story it is easy to
imagine what some of the details would have been _____
6. i can imagine him saying this the great running bear slew the mad
beast using only his bowie knife and the awesome power in his right
hand _____

Prompt:

Read the attached short story, *Little Fox*, as your reference source. Write to explain why family traditions are so important in shaping how people see themselves and their places in everyday life.

Note: This prompt and response was designed to be traded and graded by peers using the accompanying rubric and writing guide.

Planning Sheet

Overall Premise Statement:

Supporting Details:

- ---

- ---

- ---

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36 STARS (3rd Edition)

SHORT-RESPONSE WRITING GUIDE & ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Author _____ Peer editor _____ date _____

Place a star (*) on each line adjacent to each item that's adequately represented. Double lines get two stars.

Premise Statement:

- ___ This response begins with a clearly stated premise statement, viewpoint, or position.
- ___ This premise statement is complete in its scope relative to the question being asked.
- ___ This premise statement contains at least one clearly-stated, grammatically correct sentence.
- ___ This premise statement contains connotatively precise, high-level vocabulary apropos to the audience.

Supporting Details:

- ___ The supporting details are logically ordered relative to the proof being offered.
- ___ The supporting details are quotes drawn directly from the text or accurate paraphrases of the text.
- ___ If details are inferences, they are supported by direct statements in the text.
- ___ The supporting details are rendered in clearly-stated, grammatically correct sentences.

Over-all Response:

- ___ ___ This over-all response is complete and answers the question(s) fully.
- ___ ___ The over-all response was written with grade-level sophistication.

Grading Instructions for short-responses:

Add earned stars, multiply by 3, then divide by 6: _____ x3 = _____ ÷ 6 = _____

EARNED STARS TOTAL STARS SCORE