

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Narrative Writing (Unit 4, pages 168–171)

Assignment: Write a one-page story about how a piece of clothing affected your life.

The Red Boots

The sound of my cowboy boots clunking on the floor had never embarrassed me when I lived in El Paso, Texas. My grandfather had given them to me for my tenth birthday, and they were just what I'd always wanted. They had dark red leather with stitching up both sides. Like my grandfather, I wore my boots almost every day. But half-way through my first day of school in New Jersey, I thought I might never wear them again.

Opening establishes focus and creates interest.

On my first day at Middlebrook Elementary last year, I wore my boots to school like I would have in Texas. The teacher told everyone who I was, then she started our math lesson. Everything seemed fine until we started working. Mrs. Flint called me up to her desk to give me a list of the other students' names. The room had grown really quiet. I was nervous, so I tried to walk softly. However, everyone looked up from their math books anyway. I felt my face turn as red as my boots.

Sensory details bring the setting and feelings to life.

"Sounds like a horse," I heard someone whisper. "Clomp, clomp, clomp."

Dialogue shows what happened.

A few students giggled, but Mrs. Flint told them to be quiet. I noticed that almost everyone else was wearing gym shoes.

At lunch, I found a table where I could eat alone. A few minutes later, several students joined me. I thought they might tease me. I couldn't believe it when they started asking questions about where I was from in Texas instead.

"Did you have snow there?" one boy asked.

"Do you know any cowboys?" someone else asked.

I said that I'd only seen photographs of snow and that I'd never met a cowboy. I told them that my grandfather used to own a ranch. We were still talking when the bell rang for us to return to class. Suddenly I loved my boots again. Wearing them on my first day at my new school had taught me that I could be myself and make friends after all. I couldn't wait to call my grandfather and tell him all about my first day.

Clearly states the lesson learned

Summary: *The narrative opens with a strong statement and ends with the lesson the writer learned. The writing is well-organized and engages the reader through the use of dialogue and effective detail.*

The narrative would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic method. It might receive a 98 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.