My fat Tail Lepord Carey Geko has a fat tail. I hold hime every day. Some times he climes on my bed. his name 15 Jake. Lise Favorit thing to eat is meal worms. He lives in a ten golen fish tanck. He has a lot of room. Whise favorit things to do are eat slepe a stae still.

My Fat Tail Leopard • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2−

February 2nd

Dear Aunt, Niva,

Quess what I got for my bithday? Give up? Adog!! I love my dog. she looks like a dog that was Patid blak. she sounds likacat wen she barks. she is so blak shes siny, she lisens to me. sometimes we let her go to my gradmas have and let her Play whith bud. I drew you a picher to.

Love and Hugs. Savo
Kissus ooo
P.S. white bak soon!

Bus Rides

by J. D.

I ride on a skool bus just like every body els. It seems to take for ever. I hav to get up by 6:30 to cach the bus by 7. Win its rainy and cold, the frist bus step can be xtreemly slippery. Since my little sister and me are the frist on the bus we get to sit on the bak seat. Its like a xtra long bench. She sits by one windo and I sit by the other. We look out the windo and wach cars zip by. Then we do the same thing on the way home. Its sort ov boring but its better then waking.

I ride on a **skool** bus just like every body <u>els</u>. It seems to take for ever. **I hav** to get up by 6:30 to *cach* the bus by 7. **Win** its rainy and cold, the **frist** bus step can be <u>xtreemly</u> slippery. Since my little sister and me are the frist on the bus we get to sit on the back seat. Its like a <u>xtra</u> long bench. She sits by one <u>windo</u> and I sit by the other. We look out waching the cars zip by. Then we do the same thing on the way home. Its sort ov boring but its better then *waking*.

Note:

- Bolded words are on the portable word wall, page 148 (school, when, first, of)
- <u>Underlined words</u> would probably remain "sounding out" words unless the piece was to be published. Then the teacher would act as editor to correct remaining spelling errors.
- Italicized words could be added to J. D.'s personal word wall (catch, walk)

The Perfect Day • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2-3

The Perfect Day

By Darrel T.

Yesterday was a great day. It was snowing and snowing. It lasted all night and school was cancelled so my best friend and I built things in the snow ALL day long. There were snow people with faces and sticks for arms. They looked like marshmallow people. One time, we looked up and saw that the head had fallen off our snow boy. It rolled off and had landed with a big splat! We laughed and LAUGHED until we made strange noises with our noses. That made us laugh even More. My dog started barking and made a GRRRRR sound when we put the coats and hats on the snow people. He is pretty dumb sometimes. That made us start laughing all over again. Yesterday was a PERFECT day!

Une 4th

The best day of the year is when I get to see my grandma and grandpa. They are always excited to see ME! They live way far away in Peru. It takes us forever! First there is the plane. Then n is a hus full of peple on bumpy roads Forever! Forever! Forever! At His all worth it because they love ME! I love them solmet Don't you LOVE

The Best Day of the Year • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechani

How Octopus Protects Herself

An octopus has many ways to protect herself. Fire can take her eight legs and wrap them around other animals. She can use the suction cups on her legs to grip things. When an animals tries to attack her, she can make her body squish together so she can hide out in little places. That was a surprise to me! Fin octopus can by squirt ink into the water and blind the attacker for a little but of time. Then she swims off. Pretty cool. ways to protect horself.

by Steppanie J.

A Cricket's Five Senses

Written by George M.

Part 1: "A Cricket's Eyes"

The cricket has five senses but there are distinct differences. While we have only two eyes a cricket has five. Some of the crickets eyes let him see dark and light and some of his eyes let him see in a lot of places at one time. If you think a crickets eyes are cool wait until you hear about the crickets ears.

Part 2: "A Cricket's Ears"

A crickets ears are not where you would expect, they are on his legs! A cricket can stretch out its legs and "hear" all kinds of noises that a persons ear couldn't pick up.

Dear Mrs. Hoyts Thank you for everything. I loved the way you did things also I liked the web of undurstanding it was cool. I had fun with everything. I hope you have a good trip Home to oregon. Love, Kala

You're going to like 2nd grade. I just KNOW it! Here are some of the cool things you didn't get to do in 1st grade. but you get to do now. You'll be able to eat your snack DURING writing, keep your water bottle on your desk and have five more minutes for lunch. Then you get to stay in the recess line until the 1st graders go in. In 2nd grade you get to do cool science experiments have pe 3 days a week instead of 2 and get to help with the k class. Be sure to bring your pencils, paper erasers and box of Kleenex by Friday. If everybody brings everything Mrs. M will give you a cool treat.

Your friend,

Dear New 2nd Grader • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2-2

and My Cousin • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2-3

Me and My Cousin

by Martha P.

Me and my cousins are very close. We even live on the same block and see each other every day. My favorite cousin is Jordon. She and me like to do a lot of the same things. We both like to make cookies. The whole house smells SO good. Her favorite cookie is chocolate chip. So is mine. Her favorite ice cream is chocolate-chocolate chip. So is mine. Her favorite candy is Hershey's chocolate bar, but I like M & M's. Oh, well. Two out of three is a lot in common!

Walrus • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2−3

A walrus went swiming in the Ocean one day he jumt in the water and all fish swan away his tusks were sharp and long and white. they no he can eat them all in One bite.

Bird Watching Field Trip • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2-3

Bird Watching Field Trip

Last weekend my family we went bird watching. I thought it was going to be boring and didn't want to go. My parents they told me that we were going as a family and we were going to have fun whether I liked it or not. They smiled at me and I frowned at them. To make a long story short we had an ok time. We saw hawks, swallows, and some really cool flicker. I used binoculars for the first time, got to walk across a stream on slippery rocks, and got ice cream on the way home. I guess sometimes parents they make good plans.

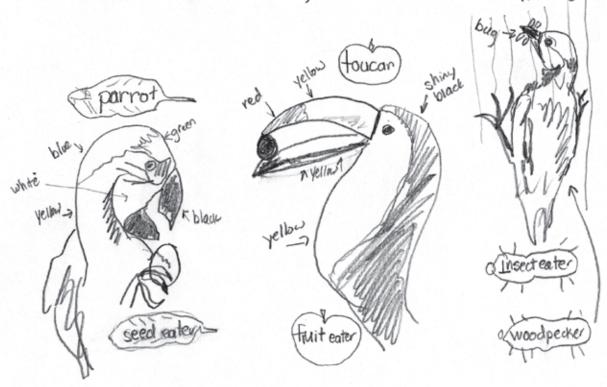
Racoon

While we sleep, he trundles on light feet confident and sure. Quietly, his shadow moves through the darkness, searching. Within the misty night, his masked face and glowing eyes keep careful watch for predator and prey. Shhh! He pauses. ______

Racoon • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2-3

"Birds Eat" by Tommy T.

Seeds. Fruit. Insects. Birds eat all of these foods. Parrots use powerful beaks to crack open nuts and seeds. A toucan's giant, colorful bill picks fruits and berries from tree branches. Almost all birds eat insects, but woodpeckers really know how to catch bugs. They use a long tongue to pull bugs from underneath the bark on trees. Gross, cool too!



Birds Eat $\, ullet \, \, igotimes 2008$ Hoyt & Therriault $ullet \, \,$ Scholastic $ullet \, \,$ Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2–3

The Dark • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2–3

the dark

Some people fear the dark

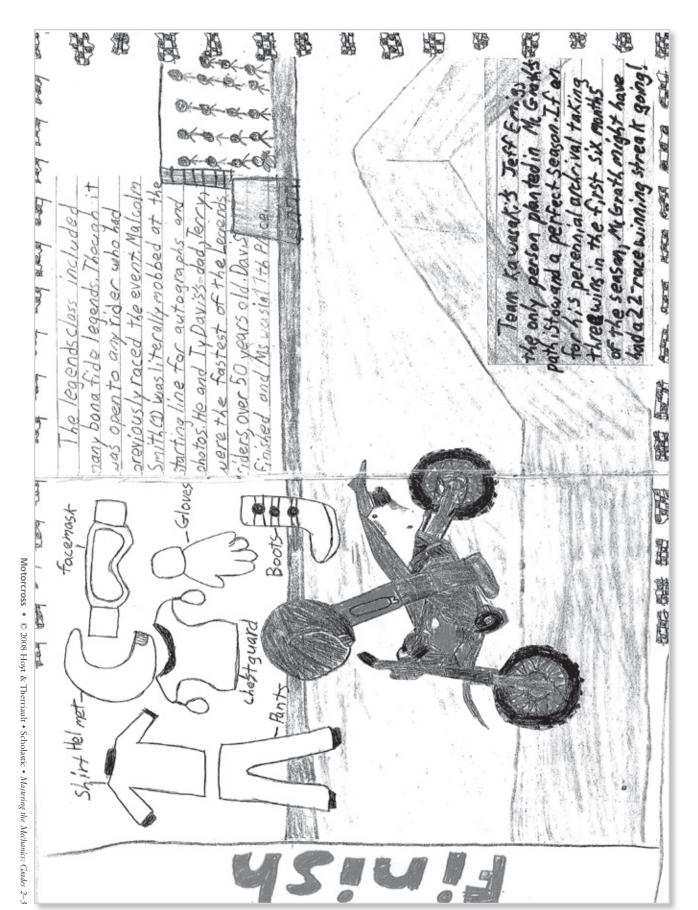
Darkness has the power to make you feel alone. Without light, your imagination can make you think that harmless things are suddenly scary.

Things are different for nocturnal animals.

Nocturnal animals love the dark because they can see very well. Their eyes are especially large and can reflect even small amounts of light back into the eye.

Head Lice

Head Lice • © 2008 Hoyt & Therriault • Scholastic • Mastering the Mechanics: Grades 2−3



APPENDIX: STUDENT WRITING SAMPLES • 193