

**“A Moment in Time” Student Examples**

Read the following student examples. Do they match the text structure of the published pieces? How?

**Kindergarten**

by Taylor Littlehale

I was only five years old, starting a new life. School. Everyone was new to me. I was scared and lonely. I didn't want my mom to leave me. I remember we played with clay and learned letters and songs. We had snack time and played with finger paint. And only for half a day. Now I'm thirteen and in middle school. We have tests and projects. No more snack time or finger paint. I have books to read, homework to finish, and a whole day of classes. Kindergarten wasn't that bad.

1. Does this narrative match the text structure of the published pieces?
2. How?

**Braces**

by Christiane Tran

I was at the orthodontist's, waiting to get braces. My friends had braces; I needed them. I thought about how cool it was to have braces; I was wrong. When my orthodontist finished adjusting them, I glanced into the mirror. My teeth, imprisoned. They felt awkward for two hours, but around dinnertime, I couldn't eat. The pain ached so badly, it felt like a horse had kicked my teeth. The next day at school, everyone said, "Nice braces," except for Heather. Heather had hers taken off. She laughed and said, "Let the torturing begin." She was right; braces are torture.

1. Does this narrative match the text structure of the published pieces?
2. How?

# In Collecting Your Writing Territories, Consider…

# memories: early, earlier, and recent

# obsessions

# idiosyncrasies

# problems

# dreams

# itches

# understandings

# confusions

# passions

# sorrows

# risks

# accomplishments

# fears

# worries

# fantasies

# family, close and distant

# friends, now and then

# fads

# favorites, now and then

# pets, now and then

# teachers, now and then

# places: school, camp, trips, times away with friends and relatives

# hobbies

# sports

# games

# music

# books

# poems

# songs

# movies

# writers and artists

# food

# pet peeves

# beloved things—objects and possessions—now and then

# all the loves of your life

**IF YOU LOSE YOUR PEN  
Ruth Forman**  
  
and all you find is a broken pencil on the floor  
and the pencil has no sharpener  
and the sharpener is in the store  
and your pocket has no money  
  
and if you look again  
and all you find is a black Bic  
and the Bic you need is green  
  
and if it appears beneath the mattress of your couch  
but the couch is dirty and suddenly you want to clean  
beneath the pillows  
but you have no vacuum and the vacuum is in the store  
and your pocket has no money  
  
it is not your pen you are looking for  
  
it is your tongue and those who speak with it  
your grandmothers and doves and ebony spiders  
hovering in the corners of your throat  
  
it is your tongue  
and if you cannot find your tongue  
do not go looking for the cat  
you know you will not find her  
she is in the neighbor's kitchen eating Friskies  
  
if you cannot find your tongue do not look for it  
for you are so busy looking it cannot find you  
the doves are getting dizzy and your grandmothers annoyed  
be still and let them find you  
they will come when they are ready  
  
and when they are  
it will not matter if your pockets are empty  
if you write with a green Bic or a black Bic  
or the blood of your finger  
you will write  
you will write