

**PICTURE YOURSELF THERE**  
**INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING**  
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*Students were given a picture from a calendar of pictures from different parts of the world, and they wrote excellent stories about the pictures.*

By Fidel V., gr. 6, and his tutor

The picture has trees, sand, water, grass, palm trees.

When I was little my family and I wanted to go to Mexico. One day we went to a beach and saw water, plants, trees, and sand. It looked like it was Mexico. A boat was sinking. They called for rescue. The people were screaming. Gladly the rescue team came in time. They were happy. They gave the people a ticket to Navy Pier for saving the boat ride. I went to the beach that had palm trees, grass, and water, and we relaxed there. We went swimming and saw fish.

By Reaisha, 4<sup>th</sup> gr, and her tutors.

Hi! My name is Veronica. I'm 10. I'm here to tell you about my life here in Mexico. My cousins and I are at the beach. We smell tortillas. My mom is cooking some tortillas. I love my mom's tortillas, but I hate others. Only my mom's are the best. I hear waves and birds chirping.

Right now we are playing on something we found. It is an old swing that is made of wood. I think that we can make it into a clubhouse if my mom lets us have blankets. However, we are having fun without it. Mom calls for dinner. We come racing and dashing to eat tortillas. This is how my story ends. How does your story go?

By Marco O., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor A Sad Picture

I am looking at a camera because he is taking a picture of me because he wants to remember. I smell flowers because I am in a garden. It is hot outside. I feel the cool summer breeze. I hear bees buzzing in my ears. I am in a garden because it is peaceful. I like it when it's peaceful. Before this, the photographer thought the picture would be very powerful. After the picture, I went home and I watched TV.

By Lexy V., 9<sup>th</sup> gr., and Josephine A.

I was walking down the park listening to music. While I walked down the path, I found a hidden ocean. This ocean looks beautiful. The view is amazing. I started to take my shoes off to walk down the sand and into the water. The water was kind of cold. I was going to the edge where a rock was so I could sit. While I took out my phone to take a picture of the water and waves, I heard a voice from behind me. It sounded like my best friend from 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I turned around and looked and there was nobody. However, I got up from the rock and started walking towards the middle of the sand. I then heard that voice again, and I turned my head slowly. I see my best friend whose name is Ozona. I started to run up to him, and I gave him a tight hug. He said, "I missed you, best friend." I hugged him again and said, "I missed you, too."

In my country we climb trees a lot. It is very hot all year long. We climb the trees because it is fun and it is cool under the shade of the tree. We can see far away stuff, and the view at the top is very beautiful.

By Eduardo, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor

I see trees. I smell dirt. It is hot. I hear birds. I am standing and trying to find a soccer ball. I am standing smiling. Before, I was eating, and after I was playing soccer.

By Edgar, 4<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor

Once upon a time there was a boy riding his bike. He was riding his bike in the desert because he was bored at home. He would just ride his bike in circles. It was hot where he was. His bike was blue. There were rocks around him, and it was daytime. The sun came up and he was happy. He was alone. It was sunny. Then he went back home because he was going somewhere with his family.

By Cherish T., 4<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

A monster lived in a cabin in the wood. He really didn't help a friend who needed it. When she got sick by him he chose not to help her.

By Jeffrey, 4<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor

Once upon a time, a group of people climbed a tree. The group of people climbed the tree because they wanted to search for food. They see lots of bananas and an elephant. They hear birds chirping and elephants stomping their feet. As they were climbing down the big tree, Bob fell and broke his leg. Then Bob's parents came and helped him get better.

By Rosalinda F., 8<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

Once upon a time I decided to jump, for the first time, off the diving board. I could smell the chlorine from the pool. The sun was burning my back. People were smiling at me, and my mom was taking a picture of me. When I landed, I splashed everybody. And the water went to my nose. Afterwards, I was so proud of myself.

By Nathan B., 8<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor

When I was little my friends and I took a trip to Antarctica. We traveled there to take place in the world championship snowball tournament. We built a fort to protect us from the flying chunks of ice. The horn rang, and the fight began. To be culminated, each member must be hit 5 times. We built an arsenal of snowballs and began to fire. We took one team with all our lives left. We began to fire at another. We managed to dodge the enemies, but they dodged ours. Finally, equal of skill, it came down to me and this other guy on the other team. My partner was the first that got out. I was left with one life left. The other guy had one life left, so he threw the snowball at me but I managed to dodge. I used all my force to throw the final one and luckily, I managed to hit him in the shoulder. It knocked him to the ground. And that is how my friend and I won the snowball tournament. Photos were taken and put in a calendar.

By Tyra R., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., and her tutor

Payton and I went to a mansion, and it was night time. We drank hot cocoa, and in the morning, we went for breakfast. Afterwards we went to our pool in our mansion. It was hot and sunny. I smelled barbeque, and I drove a limo. We were eating cheese pizza and drinking root beer.

By Itzel, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

One day there was a girl named Lucy. She had two goats called Dropsy and Pizza Hut. The goats were hungry, so Lucy and her goats went to the forest to find food. But then, a super angry goat named Burrito comes and begins to ruthlessly attack Dropsy and Pizza Hut. Luckily, Lucy found a stick, carved it into a sword, and aggressively stabs Burrito for attacking her adorable goats. Afterwards they made "burrito soup" and fed it to Dropsy and Pizza Hut. They also got cake to celebrate.

By Dayveana, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

The Best Day in the World

My family and I went to the beach. I saw a dolphin. His name was Specks. He was really playful. He splashed water on me, but I liked it! The beach smelled good, like fresh air and sand. It was really hot, and the water was cold, but it was really nice. I heard birds and the water going from side to side.

What am I doing in the water with Specks? We did tricks. Then I had a snack and built a sand castle. Next, when I got back in the water, I saw a fin, but it wasn't Specks, because Specks was on the other side. It was a shark! He was trying to eat me, but Specks hurried and came with her group of dolphins and pushed him back in the water, and I gave Specks a hug, and we played all the way until the afternoon and had so much fun.

By Phyllis R., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

Zack, Jack, BigMac, Backpack, and Papa John brought Fred the cow in the water because he ate Zack, Jack and BigMac's shirt. They punished him because he hates water. He didn't eat Backpack's shirt because he was going to eat it later. However, Fred is allergic to water. When Backpack splashed water on him, he screamed and started singing a song of pain. "Stop, stop splashing water on me." Papa John fainted when he heard the cow sing. Then Zack, Jack, Backpack, and BigMac all started crying. Then they were singing a sad song. "Oh no. I am so sad. I will miss you, my dad." So then Fred was behind them. So they got scared and screamed. Fred started splashing water on them. Then he pranced away, singing and doing the whip nae-nae with his tail.

By Jessica K., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., and her tutor

My family drove a car to go to Thailand. We went to someone's house. I smelled fortune cookies. It was hot. We ate fortune cookies. Then we went to a party. I played with my sisters. After that, I sat down and stopped playing. My sister Jessica started crying because she wanted to play with me. My sister Jordan was happy because I gave her the doll. Then they were fighting because Jessica wanted the doll but Jordan had it. We went home.

By Michelle F., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

My sister Asha and I live in a village in Africa. One day, it was hot and sunny. My mom told us to get some water to wash the dishes. I felt tired but I did it. First, we went in front of my house. Next, we went to the well. You have to push a handle up and down to get the water to come up. It was hard because when you pushed it, it takes a lot effort. My sister was holding the bucket. When we were done, my sister and I were carrying a big bucket. When we got home, we gave it to my mom and she washed the dishes in the bucket of water that we brought.

By Laniya R., 6<sup>th</sup> gr. I was in a small/big village. I can see big trees and a lot of plants. While I'm in the village observing it, I'm playing with the kids. In this country kids play on or in the trees with their cousin or family. While I'm playing with the kids, the parents cook food for dinner. I can smell the food they are cooking. They are cooking some type of rice and meat their religion can eat. The things I'm telling you that I smell and see is what I'm experiencing. I see a lot of trees and houses made out of bark. Usually they will probably use brick to build houses, but they thought of a creative way and use a strong type of bark. If you visit this village, the temperature here is hot/cold and a little windy. I can hear kids playing with their cousins and animals climbing trees making noise. When the night comes, people and their family come together and make a pitch fire and eat and talk. When they're done eating, they tell stories and dance and enjoy their life.

By Rodrigo A., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

Once upon a time, three boys were making a plan. One boy is the guard. A human comes for hunting. They had traps. If they come, they could trap them with a remote control. A bear and a lion came and the guard yelled out, "Trap them. Trap them." The lion and the bear got trapped. They looked at the lion and the bear. First, they put it in a locking machine. They then took the skin off and blood out, and they ate it.

By Alejandro S., 7<sup>th</sup> gr. "Race to the Top"

All of Harold's friends were climbing a tree because they were racing to the top. Harold was on the ground looking up at his friends race, and he was angry because he had a broken leg. As Josh pulled himself up to the top branch, he shouted "I bet Harold can't climb up." Enraged, Harold limped over to the tree.

As he climbed up the tree his hands ached in pain. The bark dug into his skin and his leg rattled every time it hit a branch. The only reason he kept going was because his friends were cheering him on.

Harold pulled himself up to the tallest branch. He felt like the strongest man on earth. Josh felt proud of his friend as they sat on the top branch together.

By Yaritza A., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

One day I went to the park with my family, and when we got there it was super full, so we had to go to another park. Then, when we got to the other park, it was empty, and my whole family had the park all to ourselves. We were super happy until I saw something that spins and spins. So I gave it a try, since nobody was there, and actually, it was pretty fun. Next, my sister saw how much fun I was having, so she went on with me. I was saying, "Yay, so much fun!" My sister answered, "True!" Then, all my siblings were staying in line so they could try the game.

By Erin C., 1<sup>st</sup> gr.

I play in the park. There are birds. I play with my cousins. We are playing outside. We play with the foam. My favorite color is light blue. We are playing nice.

By Jordynn J., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.

In my country, China, I have a pet goat. My goat's name is Sophie. She is four years old.

This picture was taken May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. I was playing fetch with my goat. My mom wanted to take a picture of us lying down. I was excited. In the picture, I was hugging my goat, Sophie. We started to play fetch again. Then we went home.

By Ifunanya O., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

Once upon a time, my niece and I were in Candyland. I am wearing a pink shirt with hearts all over it, and my niece is wearing a rainbow shirt. It's hot in Candyland, and it smells like candy. It's raining war heads, air heads, and lollypops. There's candy on the ground, and a stream of chocolate. The candy there is gonna be singing Justin Beiber.

By Sabhya L., 1<sup>st</sup> gr.

I am in a farm petting ducks. I see ducks. I see cabins made out of sticks. I see the ducks messing around. I see the ducks' beaks, eyes, and bodies. I smell fresh air. I smell the ducks. The ducks smell bad. The weather is hot. I feel the sun is hot, hot, hot. I am feeding the ducks. The ducks are attacking me, that's why I got there. I feel happy when the ducks gather around me for a long time.

