

Rubrics and Exemplars: Grade 6

Responses to Dahl & Narrative

Focus

Definition: To select one specific moment or idea and to develop just this moment or idea in your writing.

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 120 words AND almost all sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

3 PROFICIENT

Student writes a minimum of 85 words AND most sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

2 DEVELOPING PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND some sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

1 NO PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY

Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND almost none of the sentences refer to the same precise moment or idea.

Use of Evidence

Definition: Selecting and describing quoted or paraphrased details from a text to develop and support an idea.

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Student writes a minimum of 120 words AND student describes what he or she notices in almost all of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

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Student writes a minimum of 85 words AND student describes what he or she notices in most of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

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Student writes a minimum of 50 words AND student describes what he or she notices in some of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

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Student writes a minimum of 25 words AND student describes what he or she notices in almost none of the pieces of textual evidence that he or she includes.

Use of Focus score of 1

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Responses to Dahl & Narrative

Writing Prompt: Dahl says that Mrs. Pratchett is “a horror.” Do you agree or disagree? Describe 2–3 details from the passage to show why.

Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 42

Roald Dahl is so funny and I wish I had been alive when he was a kid. He pulls great pranks and has a ton of fun with his friends.

I agree that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror. She has dirty clothes and uses dirty hands to take the candy out of the jars. It says her apron was grey and greasy. Her appearance is horrible, and her behavior is even worse.

- Aaron, Grade 6

- Aaron only writes 42 words and can only score a 1 in Focus.
- When a student writes so little, there is just not enough writing to really see how well they are doing.
- He introduces his idea that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror.
- Aaron writes additional sentences that support his idea, but he does not fully develop his idea.

Use of Focus score of 2

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Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 67

I agree that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror, because she is disgusting and mean. It says she has "a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry." She was always frowning with her sour mouth. She works at a candy store so she should smile, not frown. She also had hands that were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime.

- Maya, Grade 6

- Maya writes 67 words and can score a 2 or 1 in Focus.
- She receives a score of 2 because all the sentences she writes refer to her idea that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror.
- Maya states her idea
- She includes two quotes that support her idea.
- She writes more sentences that support her idea.

Use of Focus score of 3

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Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 104

I believe Mrs. Pratchett is a horror because it says "Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it," She doesn't care about the way she looks even though she is working at a store. Another reason I believe Mrs. Pratchett is a horror is because her hands were dirty. "They looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long." Her job is to touch the candy that people buy so her hands should be spotless. She is also mean. Instead of being friendly to her customers, she yells at everyone. Once I was at a store where the worker was being rude. I was trying to buy sneakers but she wouldn't bring the right size so I left.

- Hank, Grade 6

- Hank writes 104 words and can score a 3, 2, or 1 in Focus.
- He receives a score of 3 because he states his idea about Mrs. Pratchett, and every sentence he writes explains his idea.
- He clearly states his idea.
- He includes two quotes that support his idea.
- Hank writes additional sentences that support his idea.

Use of Focus score of 4

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Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 180

I agree with the idea that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror because she is filthy in the way she looks and she is also nasty with the boys who come into her shop. First of all, she has a greasy apron and food all over her blouse. She had "toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk" on her apron. Can you imagine going to get a treat at the store and seeing the worker looking like that? Then, she uses dirty hands to get the candy for the boys. It even says she has "black fingernails" and she uses those nails to touch all the candy. She should wash her hands or use gloves. After all, candy is something you eat and you don't want it to be all dirty. Finally, she is so mean she won't even give the kids a bag unless they "spent a whole sixpence," otherwise, she puts the candy in dirty newspaper. A sixpence was probably a lot of money and who wants newspaper all over their candy? She was clearly a horror.

- Carla, Grade 6

- Carla writes 180 words and can score a 4, 3, 2, or 1 in Focus.
- She receives a score of 4 because every sentence she writes helps to develop her idea about Mrs. Pratchett.
- She clearly states her idea.
- She includes three quotes that support her idea.
- Carla writes additional sentences that support her idea.

Use of Evidence score of 1

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Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 61

I think that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror because she had a “filth that clung around her.” Also, she had a “mustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry.” And it said she “she never smiled.” Also her apron had “bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk.”

- Dan, Grade 6

- Dan writes 61 words and can score a 2 or 1 in Use of Evidence.
- He receives a score of 1 because he does not describe what he notices in any of the evidence that he includes.
- Dan includes four quotes, but does not describe what he notices in any of them.

Use of Evidence score of 2

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Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 114

I agree that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror. She clearly is a horror because “Her apron was grey and greasy.” She also served the candy with dirty hands. She didn't even care that she was giving children candy with germs all over her hands. It says it looked like she had been picking up coal all day. Coal is black and dirty and should not be eaten along with candy. The kids might get really sick, but she doesn't even care. Also, “Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk.” He also said, “She never smiled. She never welcomed us when she went in.”

- Sara, Grade 6

- Sara writes 114 words and can score a 3, 2, or 1 in Use of Evidence.
- She receives a score of 2 because she describes what she notices in only one piece of evidence that she includes.
- She includes a paraphrase, then describes what she notices in this paraphrase.
- Sara does not describe what she notices in the three quotes that she includes.

Use of Evidence score of 3

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Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 140

It is easy to agree with Dahl that Mrs. Pratchett is a horror because of the way he describes her. She doesn't care that her "apron is grey and greasy." I mean, really, how does she even get grease all over herself? She's is not a mechanic. She is getting candy! If it's grey, she probably doesn't even wash it either. Secondly, her hands were "black with dirt and grime." She should be washing them because signs always say that employees should wash hands. I think if you are scooping out candy without gloves, you should definitely wash your hands, but I guess she does not think so. Also, "Unless you spent a whole sixpence all in one go, she wouldn't give you a bag. Instead you got your sweets twisted up in a small piece of newspaper."

- Benjamin, Grade 6

- Benjamin writes 138 words and can score a 4, 3, 2, or 1 in Use of Evidence.
- He receives a score of 3 because he explains the importance of words and phrases in two of the three pieces of evidence he includes.
- He includes a direct quote, then describes what he notices in this quote.
- He adds another direct quote, then describes what he notices in this quote.
- Benjamin does not describe what he notices in the last quote that he includes, and does not make it clear to the reader why this quote is important.

Use of Evidence score of 4

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Text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl

Number of minutes spent on the assignment: 15

Word count: 188

Considering all the details Dahl uses, I agree that Mrs. Pratchett was a 'horror.' First of all, the ways she looked was like something out of a horror movie. "She was a small skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip." A hag is horrible because when you picture her she looks like a witch. Also, she had a moustache. Also she is skinny, but she works at a candy shop so she should be jolly and round. Next, Dahl says she had an apron that was "grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk." So now you have a witch with dirty clothes and stinky old breakfast food all over. That is unsanitary because her egg yolk could fall in the clean candy jars. If you are still not horrified, think about this stinky old witch having dirty hands to get you your candy. It also says she had "black fingernails" and her hands were "disgusting." Remember these are the hands that are taking out the candy you really want to buy.

- Kara, Grade 6

- Kara writes 188 words and can score a 4, 3, 2, or 1 in Use of Evidence.
- She receives a score of 4 because she draws the reader's attention to important words and phrases in all of the evidence she includes.
- She includes a quote, then describes what she notices in this quote.
- She adds another quote, then describes what she notices in this quote.
- Kara includes paraphrases and quotes and describes what she notices in the paraphrased evidence.