**Teacher Model #1**

Massive, navy blue waves **smash** *brutally* into the cragged shore of Oregon. I stand on the edge of a large, jagged rock, listening *intently* to the ocean’s constant roar. As each wave **collides** with the shore, spray bursts *forcefully* atop sharp rocks and collects in small pools. Below the horizon line is a scene of power and violence, but above the horizon line is a scene of serenity. A soft orange sun *gently* descends through a lavender sky. *Eventually*, it **extinguishes** its flickering flame in the deep sea. As this flame expires, it casts a glorious, golden reflection over the Pacific—glints of amber sparkling off the tips of distant waves. Soon the sky blackens and stars begin to twinkle silently above. Never before and never since have I witnessed anything as awe-inspiring as the sun setting on the Oregon coast. I look at this picture and think of how great our Creator must be—his glory, his power, his wisdom. I wonder how much more breath-taking Heaven must be.

**Teacher Model #2**

This picture is of my father, Byron, at my sister’s wedding reception. He *casually* **sips** a cup of his preferred beverage, black coffee. My father is calm and relaxed on the day he hands his youngest daughter off to be married. The man is *unflappably* levelheaded and cool; he’s not overcome with emotion by the significance of this day. He’s a rock. He’s my rock. When I’ve behaved *foolishly*, when I’ve lost jobs, when I’ve been much less than I should have been, he’s reassured me with his calm demeanor. When I’ve **accomplished** something noteworthy, when I’ve earned and maintained success, when I myself was married, I have been met with a simple, composed congratulatory smile. He laughs *often* (he loves to joke), but I’ve never seen him cry, not once. If I were to see him cry, I might **crumble** in panic. He views the world through eyes that have seen it all: good times, bad times, life, death, war, and peace. The relaxed, impenetrable composure *plainly* written on his sixty-year-old face assures me that everything will work out somehow.

Teacher Model #3

41 to 3, 52 to 7, 39 to 5—our losses were atrocious and humiliating. They were *terribly* inept basketball players led by a *dreadfully* incompetent coach. Somehow, I was **roped** into coaching the Blue Ridge Knights seventh grade girls basketball team. “How difficult can this be?” I **reasoned**. We were undersized and uncoordinated. Passes *errantly* sailing out of bounds, balls dribbled off shoes, lay-up shots that *inexplicably* never even **grazed** the rim—we were a miserable sight. There were some games where I just wanted to cower under the scorers’ table and pretend this nightmare wasn’t happening. But there was one thing we could do *capably*, foul! We were a scrappy bunch, scuffling for every loose ball, brawling for every rebound, clawing the ball out of the arms of baffled opponents. I’ll never forget the sight of little Lauren Altman, all 4 ½ feet and 75 pounds of her, wrestling another team’s enormous, burly center to the ground. She came out of the scuffle with a skinned knee, a bloody lip, a satisfied smile, and the ball. That was my team! We may have only won one game the entire season, but we fought like champions.

***Picture in a Paragraph Essay***

***Description:***

For this essay, you will bring a picture from home and then write a paragraph describing the picture. In your paragraph, you might write about the story behind the picture, what it makes you feel, or anything the picture brings to mind. Here are the requirements for the assignment:

* Include 5 adjectives in your paragraph and underline them.
* Include 5 adverbs in your paragraph and italicize them.
* Include 3 vivid verbs in your paragraph and bold them.
* Use vivid description to reference at least two of the five senses
* Your paragraph should be at least 200 words in length

***Grading:***

Rough Draft—40 pts.

Final Copy—80 pts.

* Focus—5 points

--The writer capability articulates the specialness of the picture through

narration, descriptions, and/or symbolism (5 points)

* Organization—5 Points

--The essay is logical in order and flows together well (5 points)

* Elaboration— 20 Points

--5 descriptive adjectives were correctly used and underlined (6 points).

--5 descriptive adverbs were correctly used and italicized (6 points).

--3 vivid verbs were correctly used and bolded (4 points)

--The writer maintains a descriptive, detailed style throughout the paragraph (4 points).

* Conventions—10 Points

--A variety of sentences are used, including short sentences (3 points).

--The writing is free of punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors (7 points).

* Deductions

--The paragraph is less than 200 words in length.

--A copy of the photo is not attached with the essay.

It’s as if I were lying face up in the middle of a forest, studying the swaying, surrounding pines as they **tower** up into a moonless night. Or, this--pewter gray, saddle brown, stormy blue petals **blossoming** around berry black centers. Golden, cobalt, and silvery firework flares **bursting** from pitch black skies. Tiger’s eye, topaz, and lapis lazuli encircle the obsidian cores of mysterious amulets. Each time I peer into your eyes, your pair of hazel kaleidoscopes suggests a new metaphor. *Supposedly*, infants blink only twice a minute. I suppose there’s a physiological reason for this, but I believe you’re perpetually wide-eyed from the wonder of all things new. We sit you facing the sliding glass door to the backyard. For long stretches, you stare, contented, mesmerized, discovering shapes, sunlight, shades of color, phantom robins darting among the fluttering leaves of shadow smocked trees. When that bright stare turns toward me, I feel privileged. I sense a swelling in my chest. *Occasionally*, I’ll place my face inches from yours. You grasp my glasses and tug them off. You scratch my chin and grip my stubbly cheek. Our gazes *momentarily* align, and I’m lost in galaxies of glinting stars swirling into the overpowering pull of two black holes, the gravity of which my heart won’t bother to resist.

***Picture Paragraph Final Copy Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

Final Copy—80 pts.

* Focus—10 points

--The writer capability articulates the specialness of the picture through

narration, descriptions, and/or symbolism (10 points)

* Organization—10 Points

--The essay is logical in order and flows together well (10 points)

* Elaboration— 40 Points

--5 descriptive adjectives were correctly used and underlined (12 points).

--5 descriptive adverbs were correctly used and highlighted (12 points).

--3 vivid verbs were correctly used and **bolded** (8 points)

--The writer maintains a descriptive, detailed style throughout the paragraph (8 points).

* Conventions—20 Points

--A variety of sentences are used, including short sentences (6 points).

--The writing is free of punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors (14 points).

* Deductions

--The paragraph is less than 200 words in length.

--A copy of the photo is not attached with the essay.

***Picture Paragraph Final Copy Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

Final Copy—80 pts.

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* Organization—10 Points

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--mental or physical actions

--can be any tense

--must be vivid (“thwacked” not “hit”)

Adjectives:

--answer “How many?” “What kind?” or “Which?”

--How something smells, tastes, feels, sounds, and looks

Adverbs:

--answer “How?” “Where?” “When?” “To what extent?”

-- “-ly” words

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