

ELA/Literacy  
Released Item 2018

Grade 7  
Narrative Task  
Tanner's Point of View  
VF737579

**Today you will read a passage from *Wild River*. As you read, pay close attention to the characters and setting as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.**

Read the passage from the novel *Wild River*. Then answer the questions.

from *Wild River*

by P. J. Petersen

- 1** We floated for a while. It was warm in the sunshine, and Tanner took off his shirt. He caught one more fish and let it go. "Bigger," he said. "But not big enough."
- 2** I looked downstream. Then I took a really good look. "Tanner," I said, "there's nothing but rocks up ahead."
- 3** He laughed and shouted, "Get ready for the chute!"
- 4** "The what?"
- 5** "The chute. River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight."
- 6** I glanced over my shoulder. Tanner had put down his fishing pole and picked up his paddle.
- 7** I could hear the roar of water. That scared me a little. "It sounds like Niagara Falls," I yelled.
- 8** "Relax, bro. It's just a little waterslide."
- 9** Up ahead I could see a steep cliff on one side. On the other side were big black rocks. In the middle was a little opening. I hoped our kayak would fit.
- 10** "Keep 'er straight!" Tanner yelled.
- 11** The opening was wider than I'd thought at first. But I couldn't see anything past it. And the roar got louder and louder.

- 12** The nose of the kayak went straight into the opening. Then we were headed down too fast for me to do anything but hold on. We hit a pool at the bottom and shot ahead.
- 13** "All right!" Tanner yelled.
- 14** I glanced back. The chute didn't look very high. Or very steep. But I knew better.
- 15** "That was awesome," Tanner said. "Brady and I didn't get anything like that last year."
- 16** I waited a minute, then asked, "Tanner, didn't that scare you?"
- 17** "Sure," he said. "That's why it was fun."
- 18** "Maybe for you," I said. "I'm no hero."
- 19** He didn't answer. He was getting out his fishing pole again. A few minutes later he hooked a fish, but it got away. I kept the kayak steady in the current.
- 20** "Hey, Ryan," he said, "that hero stuff—that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games or comic books."
- 21** "That's easy for you to say." I looked back at him for a second. "You ran into that burning house and saved that old guy."
- 22** "I just happened to be there. You'd have done the same thing. Later on, they made a big deal about it. But it was no biggie."
- 23** "I probably would have been too scared."
- 24** "You'd have been scared, sure. Everybody gets scared. But that wouldn't stop you. You do what you have to do."
- 25** "Maybe," I said. But I didn't believe it.
- 26** We drifted along for a while. It was warm in the sun. Until some icy water splashed on me. Which happened every minute or two.

- 27** “We’re coming up on another chute,” Tanner said. He reeled his line, then picked up his paddle. “I think this one is shorter. Maybe a little steeper.”
- 28** This time there was no cliff. Just big boulders on both sides of the river. I could hear the water roaring. The sound scared me. Maybe not as much as the first time, but I was still scared.
- 29** We did everything right. The kayak was straight, and we were in the middle of the river. I lifted my paddle and braced myself for the slide.
- 30** “Hang on, buddy!” Tanner yelled.
- 31** Just as we started down, I saw something ahead. A big black log. Right in the middle of the chute. With a jagged end pointed straight at us. And it wasn’t moving. Not at all.
- 32** I opened my mouth to yell, but no words came out.

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# Anchor Set A1 – A10

No Annotations Included

The river was calm and it was getting hot with the sun beating down on Ryan and I. I took off my shirt and then attempted to catch a fish. When I caught one, I wasn't thoroughly satisfied. "Bigger," I muttered to no one in particular. "But not big enough." I dropped the fish and walked back to Ryan.

"Tanner," he said, "there's nothing but rocks up ahead." The look on Ryan's face made me feel exasperated. I sighed inwardly. Then, as we approached the chute, I began to laugh.

"Get ready for the chute!" I could feel the adrenaline pumping inside my veins as we neared it.

"The what?" Ryan's tone was obviously full of concern. *Why is he worrying? Stop being such a baby!* Good thing Ryan couldn't hear my thoughts!

"The chute. River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight." I turned back to the edge of the kayak and put down my fishing pole. Hands sweating, heart beating, filled with anticipation for the ride ahead, I picked up my paddle.

"It sounds like Niagara Falls!" Ryan yelled to me. I resisted the urge to roll my eyes.

"Relax, bro. It's just a little waterslide." We were getting super close. I could feel it. My mind seemed to shut off and I could feel the nervous butterflies flying around in my stomach. While I loved this mix of nervousness and excitement, Ryan didn't share my view. Then, I saw rocks and a tiny opening that would require precision to get through it. *Oh no. Ryan is going to freak.*

"Keep 'er straight!" I yelled to Ryan. Ryan was suddenly silent. His silence had a connotation that I associated with panic and fear. The roar of the chute was getting louder, in fact so loud that I could hear the drum of my heart beat in my ears, but I couldn't hear anything else. The tip of the kayak went straight into the opening. *So far, so good.* We sped up and I felt my stomach drop as we lurched forward. *Yeah! This is so much fun!* I felt my hair blow back as we hit a pool at the bottom with a THUD! I couldn't see Ryan with all of the water surrounding us, but if I saw him, I'm sure his eyes would have been shut tight. *Is it over?* My thoughts were soon answered. The kayak shot ahead. "All right!" Ryan was still silent, but he turned his wet head to glance back at the chute. *Baby.* "That was awesome," I said. "Brady and I didn't get anything like that last year." My breathing was returning to normal after having adrenaline surge through my veins.

"Tanner, didn't that scare you?" *FINALLY he said something!*

"Sure," I replied. "But that's why it was fun." Ryan didn't seem to understand adventure junkies like me.

"Hey, Ryan," *He wants an answer? I'll give him one.* "that hero stuff...that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games or comic books."

"Maybe for you," Ryan said. "I'm no hero." *Was that an insult? First he's too scared to do anything and then he insults me?* Ryan was really getting on my last nerve. I ignored him and got out my fishing pole. I looked over the side of the kayak and saw the water flowing below me and wondered how anyone would think that this wasn't the best feeling in the world. I eventually hooked a fish but it got away.

"Hey, Ryan," *He wants an answer? I'll give him one.* "that hero stuff...that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games or comic books."

"That's easy for you to say." Ryan shot me a glance colder than the water below us. "You ran into that burning house and saved that old guy."

"I just happened to be there. You'd have done the same thing. Later on, they made a big deal about it. But it was no biggie."

"I probably would have been too scared." *He's right about that.*

"You'd have been scared, sure. Everybody gets scared. But that wouldn't stop you. You do what you have to do." *Not only am I lying to Ryan, I'm lying to myself.*

"Maybe," Ryan said. The water became serene and the sun beat down on me again. I was getting hot. Ryan was ridiculous. Any time a drop of water splashed on him, he flinched.

"We're coming up on another chute," I told Ryan. I reeled my line back in and once again picked up my paddle. "I think this one is shorter. Maybe a little steeper." Ryan's face went pale. *Why is he scared? He went through this one time and survived! He can make it through another.* In his defense, Ryan did manage to keep the kayak straight. He lifted his paddle and braced himself.

"Hang on buddy!" I roared over the noise of the chute. Just as we began our descent, Ryan's eyes widened and he looked at me. He was right to be scared. There was a big black log in the middle of the shoot with the jagged end pointed at us. There was no way it was moving. Ryan tried to scream, but he couldn't form words. For once, I didn't blame him.

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 1**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 4**



As we were floating, I could feel the sunlight hitting the back of my neck. Even though we were in the water, I couldn't help feeling like I was in the desert. I took off my shirt in an effort to cool myself down, although I'm not sure it helped. I kept my eyes locked on the water, on my pole. I was waiting for a fish to nibble, but not just any fish. I felt a tug, but was disappointed to see the mummachog that had latched onto my rod.

As I looked ahead, though, my adrenaline started to pump- I could feel it shooting through my veins. I turned to look at Ryan, expecting to see the same look. Instead, however, his eyes were empty, rattled with fear.

"There's nothing but rocks up ahead," Ryan called out.

I had to chuckle. He didn't even know what he was in for. "Get ready for the chute!" I screamed back to him in delight.

"The what?" Ryan's body tensed up and his body began to shake. He was trying not to make it noticeable, but the shivering oar he was holding was a dead giveaway as to how he was feeling.

"The chute. River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight." I tried to sound nonchalant, to calm him down. Inside, though, my body was raging like the howling wind. I could hear Ryan in front of me, saying something about Niagra Falls. He was pretty worked up I guess. "Relax bro. It's just a little waterslide." I admit- the first time I came here, I wasn't scared, not one bit. Did I want people to know that, though? Nope. I didn't want to be the fearless leader anymore, the savior, the brave boy. I wanted to be like everyone else. Cowardly. I called forward to Ryan and instructed him to keep his paddle straight, laying accross the kayak.

I could hear the chute's lion roar as we began to approach it. Closer. Closer. Closer. We shot straight down, like there was no end in sight. i closed my eyes for my favorite part- we landed in a pool of freshness, and icy water splashed up all around us. I let out a holler. "That was awesome! Brady and I didn't get anything like that last year." I felt bad as soon as the words left my mouth. Mentioning Brady in front of Ryan was probably wrong, but now that Brady was in college, it was okay to hang out with Ryan, his younger brother, right?

I could see Ryan hesitate before he opened his mouth. I hoped I hadn't made him upset.

"Tanner, didn't that scare you?" he voice quivered, almost like he was afraid to ask me.

"Sure!" I answered. "That's why it was fun."

"Maybe for you." Ryan waited before completeing his sentence. "I'm no hero." His voice had dipped deeper on that last part, almost like he was ashamed to let the words slip out of his mouth.

I pretended to fidget with my fishing pole and be really interested in hooking a fish. I didn't want Ryan to know how his words resonated with me, or that they would be words I would never forget. I called Ryan's name. "That hero stuff- that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games or comic books."

Ryan stared back at me, seemingly shocked by my repsonse. "That's easy for you to say. You ran into that burning house and saved that old guy."

Everywhere I went, my new image followed. I hated it. It was like my shadow, following me. I didn't want to be the boy who saved the old guy anymore. I didn't want to have to be brave or a life-saver or have things the easy way now. I didn't do *anything*. My insitcts told me to go into that house, and I did. Sometimes I wish they hadn't, but there's nothing I can do now. Sometimes I wish that I wasn't the one who walked by that house that day, but there's nothing I can do now. "I just happened to be there. You'd have done the same thing. Later on, thay made a big deal about it. But it was no biggie."

"I probably would've been too scared."

I explained the whole insticnt business to Ryan, told him that he would've done the same thing. He didn't seem too convinced. I tried to turn his attention. "We're coming up to another chute. I think this one is shorter, maybe a little steeper."

I looked ahead, and familiar boulders greeted me on either side. Ryan was prepared this time, though, so we were positioned perfectly. "Hang on, buddy!" I screamed. We started down the second shoot, the familiar congo rapid welcoming me back. Just as we began to shoot down, Ryan turned around to face me. His body and face appeared to be paralyzed with fear. I looked around him and saw a big, brown, and jagid log. But I'm an adrenaline junkie. I don't get scared. I was scared.

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 2**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 4**

The sun's warm rays as I sat in the kayak, taking off my shirt due to the heat. It had been a while since Ryan and I had started floating lazily down the river, fishing. I felt a tug at my fishing pole and reeled it in as fast as I could to make sure this one couldn't get away. Frowning, I sighed and shook my head. "Bigger, but not big enough." And with that I tossed it back into the river.

"Tanner, there's nothing but rocks up ahead." I heard Ryan say as he looked over at me, a faint sound of rushing water ringing in my ears, making me laugh. "Get ready for the chute!"

"The what?"

"The chute. River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight." I dropped my fishing pole and picked up my paddle.

"It sounds like Niagara Falls." Ryan yelled.

"Relax, bro. Just a little waterslide."

A steep cliff came into my point of view. Big black rocks lined the sides of the lake, the opening in the middle. "Keep 'er straight!" I yelled.

The kayak quickly picked up speed as we headed down the chute. Everything seemed to slow down to me, the sounds of rushing water hitting my ears mixed with Ryan's yells were the best combination. I looked over to see him clutching to the kayak and I laughed as we hit the bottom. "All right! That was awesome. Brady and I didn't get anything like that last year."

A few moments of silence made me sigh and sink into the boat lightly, staring up at the clouds. I heard Ryan's voice ask me: "Tanner, didn't that scare you?"

I grinned to myself. "Sure, that's why it was fun."

"Maybe for you. I'm no hero."

I didn't answer as I got my fishing pole out again. I threw the line out and waited for that tug, reeling it in and tossing the minnow that I caught back into the water.

"Hey, Ryan," I started. "that hero stuff---that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games or comic books."

Hero? There's no such things. There's only good deeds in real life. Heroes are like Superman or Batman or Sonic the Hedgehog. They all have one thing in common- that all have some type of super power. I haven't got a lick of super-hero blood in me. But if I wake up one day to see I have gotten super strength, I wouldn't mind that much.

"That's easy for you to say. You ran into that burning house and saved that old guy."

I shook my head. "I just happened to be there. You'd have done that same thing. Later on, they made a big deal about it. But it was no biggie."

"I probably would have been too scared."

"You'd have been scared, sure. Everybody gets scared. But that wouldn't stop you. You do what you have to do." I smiled slightly before rubbing the burnt spot on my shoulder.

"Maybe." Ryan's voice didn't sound all that believable.

We sat in the silence. The sun's rays made me sweat lightly. I looked up to the river. "We're coming up on another chute. I think this one is shorter. Maybe a little steeper." I said as I picked up my paddle and reeled in my line.

The kayak was aligned perfectly and we were in the middle of the river. "Hang on, buddy!"

We started going down and everything slowed down again. My heart pounded in my ears in excitement, cold water making my limbs go numb. I didn't even have time to open my eyes as I felt the boat jerk, sending me flying forward. I yelled out, hitting the water. I couldn't move, not an inch. I was numb and the water didn't help that much. I tried to yell out for help, but I knew I couldn't, I didn't have too much breath anyways. Darkness filled my vision as I let out the air aching my lungs and burning my throat, closing my eyes.

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 3**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 3**

A ray of sun hit my face as i moved in rythm with the small waves the river provided, i could feel my shirt sticking to my skin more and more as the minutes past. Taking off my shirt my fishing pole started to tug towards the water, i could tell it was a big one.

"Ryan check this out," I yelled to my little brother as i reached for the fish." Hmm big? yes, but just not big enough" pulling the slippery slimy yellow fish off the hook and throwing it back into the water, i smirked as I looked up ahead.

" Um hey Tanner up head.. Theres only rocks up head.. Shouldn't we uh you know go back?" Ryan's eyes were glued to the image of the downstream.

The sound of water smashing to the surface came closer and closer, i could tell we were going down soon.

" Get ready for the chute!" I managed to say over the loud roaring water. Taking the paddle i started to row the kayak harder and faster each time. I could see the worry look my brother had on his face as if he were about to throw up right then and there.

" The what?" Ryan turned pale like a he had just seen a ghost.

"The Chute. River gets narrow for a minute. it's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight."

Hearing the water hit the rocks violently i started to paddle faster and faster, there was nothing that could stop us now.

" It sounds like Niagara Falls," Ryan yelled. I looked at him with the face of confidence hoping he would have a little of hope that we would make it down safe.

Turning my head, my eyes were locked on the beautiful steep clif surrounded with big black rocks with a little opening, i started to smirk at the thought of falling down and our adrelein pumping and going as fast as a nascar. I yelled, "Keep 'er straight!" hoping my little brother would relax just a bit.

" WOOOOSH" We went down, i felt like we were falling from the face of the earth. Looking behind me i knew Ryan didn't enoy it at all.

"Tanner, didn't that scare you?" Ryan questioned me.

I let out a laugh, " Sure, thats why its was so fun!"

"Maybe for you, but im no "hero". " Ryan stared off into the water.

Getting my fish pole again i looked back at Ryan i could tell somethig was wrong.

" Hey Ryan that hero stuff- that's garbage. The only heros these days are in video games or comic books."

" Well thats easy for you to say." He turned his head staring directly into my eyes, " You ran into that burning house and saved that old guy."

" I just happened to be there. You'd have done the same thing. Later on, they made a big deal about it, But it was no bigge." I assured him " I probably would have been to scared!"

" You'd have been scared, sure. Everybody gets scared. But that wouldn't stop you. You do what you have to do."

" Maybe i dont know." Ryan responded with a smile, but i could tell he did not believe me one bit.

Looking ahead i saw another chute," We're comeing up on another chute," i said picking up my paddle, " I think this one is shorter. Maybe a little steeper."

I could tell we were going to go down any minute , " hang on buddy" i yelled to Ryan.

Before i knew it there was a log



**Score**

**Anchor Paper 4**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 3**

As we floated down the stream the sun shown down bright in our faces. As Ryan caught another fish that again was way to small."Let it go," I said. He let it go just before he said, "whatch out for those rocks up ahead!" "Relax, it's just the chute." I said. "what?" He replied. " Its a narrow part of the river that's like a waterslide," I said, ",just keep it straight and you'll be fine." I couldn't wait for it. I always loved the "chute". It's so fun but ryan looked kind of scared. It came up closer and there we went. It was awesome! " Wasn't that great?" I asked. " Yes, even though I thought it was a little scary at first." Ryan replied. " Everyone get's scared," I said, "Your stronger than you think." "Thanks." He said. "Hey, look," I said, " It's another chute." I could see bigger boulders this time but that didn't scare me. I was always fine after a chute. We got ourselves ready. Kept the kayak straight untill... we saw a pionted log right in front of us. I was ready to do what I had to do to get down alive. I saw ryan and hoped he'd be okay. He opened his mouth to scream but he was so scared he couldn't. I didn't no what I would do just to save my friends life. But as we got closer there was nothing else to do. The jagged log came closer in my sight.

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 5**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 2**

It was getting hot as we floated down the river. I caught another fish but it was still too small. "Bigger, but not big enough." I released the fish back into the water. I notice Ryan look downstream with horror in his eyes.

"Tanner," he said, "there's nothing but rocks up ahead."

I burst out laughing. "Get ready for the chute!" I can tell he doesn't know what I'm talking about.

"The what?"

How does he not know what the chute is? I explain to Ryan that it's like a narrow waterslide. I returned to fishing while we approached the chute. The water starting getting louder. Ryan looked even more scared. He says it sounds like Niagara Falls. Obviously he has never been there because it is **much** louder. Ryan did a great job steering through the chute. The jump was amazing, but i could tell Ryan didn't enjoy it.

"Tanner, didn't that scare you?"

I thought that was a dumb question. Anyone would be scared of that.

"Sure, that's why it was fun," I responded.

"Maybe for you," he paused "I'm no hero."

Did he just call me a hero? I'm no hero. I thought about what he said for a few minutes as I tried to catch a fish again. I told the heroes these days are in video games and comics. Then he brought up when I saved an old man from a fire.

"I just happened to be there," I told him, "You'd have done the same thing."

Ryan says he would have been to scared. Again with being scared. Everyone gets scared. That should not stop anyone.

We were coming up on another chute. As we head down I yell, "Hang on, buddy!"

The next thing I see is a jagged log that is in are way.

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 6**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 2**

As we floated down the river I was fishing with my friend Ryan. There was really nothing worth keeping and eating in this river, so I ended up throwing all my catches back into the water. When I put away my pole I noticed the chute is coming up, that's where the river gets narrow for a minute.

"Chute time!" Tanner Exclaimed.

"Wait what!" Ryan yelled in fear.

"Don't worry the river is just going to get narrow like a waterslide for a minute." I replied. The water was deafingly loud, it was obviously scaring Ryan because he wasn't getting his paddle out to help us get through the chute. When we pass through Ryan isn't as tense as he was when he first seen it. But our problems weren't over, we had seen a big black rock stick out at us, and it wasn't moving.

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 7**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 1**

We were having sooooo much fun out on the river. I started to fish. When we saw a chute up ahead and I was excited to go across it, but Ryan was scared to. I started to paddle so we could get into the small opening on the cliff side. I was telling Ryan to keep it staight and to paddle as fast as he could. As soon as we got threw the first chute I got out my fishing pole again and started to fish. As Ryan was navigating the kayak he noticed another chute. As we got closer to it Ryan saw a log in front of us. Ryan tried to warn me, but nothing came out of his mouth.



**Score**

**Anchor Paper 8**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 1**

## Tanners Point of View

tanner and his friend rayn are going on a fishing trip. wile tanner is tring to fish rayn is holding the kayak still. tanner is geting ready to go though the chute. tanners friend rayn is starting to get scared tanner trys to com him down by telling him that it is like a water slide. then after thay are down frome the water fall they start to talk about suff and how tanner saved a mans life from his burning house. then they are about to go down anuther one and rayn is still scared dut not as scared as he was befor as they are going down rayn spots a log and it is not moving and rayn is tring to say some thing and the sound or the words want come out

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 9**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 0**

**Tanner's point of view is that Tanner is not scared, in the passage says that "Tanner took of his shirt and told ryan "their's just rocks up ahead" and also he told ryan "to relax because ryan was scared because he heard a roar of the water and that scared him. also Tanner's point of view is that Tanner is disrespectful to ryan because he told ryan that "the hero stuff that's garbage and told ryan "the only heroes these days are in video games and comic books and also Tanner's point of view is that he wants to be like a really athlete guy and also to show off and like he wants to be better than everyone.**

**Score**

**Anchor Paper 10**

**Written Expression**

**Score Point 0**

# Practice Set P101 - P105

No Annotations Included

I caught another fish it was bigger than the last, but I needed a bigger one. "Bigger, but not big enough" I yelled to Ryan.

Not focusing on him, and on my rod I heard him yell over the sound of rushing water, "Tanner there's nothing but rocks up ahead."

I couldn't help, but laugh, "Get ready for the chute!"

"The what?"

The chute. River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just go straight."

I picked up the paddle after dropping my rod. I saw him looking at me with concern written all over his face.

He yelled to me, "It sounds like Niagara Falls!"

"Relax, bro. It's just a little waterslide."

I sat down, and started paddling with him. I'm a little freaked out about this to like always, but don't show it for his sake.

"Keep 'er straight!" I yelled.

The loud roar of the water drowned out my thoughts, and if Ryan were to say something i bet I wouldn't here him.

We went through the opening with ease, and i saw Ryan grip the kayak like he was going to die. It was funny, but I managed not to laugh.

"All right!", I said. "That was awesome Brandy and i didn't get anything like that last year."

After waiting a minute or so he asked, Tanner, didn't that scare you?"

"Sure. That's why it was so fun."

"Maybe For you", he said. "I'm no hero."

I hate it when people call me a hero. It was just a quick reaction. I didn't answer him just put down the paddle, and picked my rod back up.

"Hey, Ryan," I said, "That hero stuff-that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games, and comic books."

"That's easy for you to say." He looked back at me for a second. 'You ran into that burning house, and saved that old guy."

"I just happened to be there. You'd have done the same thing. later on' they made a big deal about it. But it was o biggie." I'm not a hero, and I know it. It was only a reaction. I'm sure they would still make a big deal out of it even if it were someone else who saved him.

" I probably would have been to scared."

"You'd have been scared sure. Everybody gets scared. But that wouldn't stop you. You do what you have to."

"Maybe," he said. I could tell he didn't belive me for a second.

It was quiet for a while. "We're coming up on another chute," I said getting a little nervous again. Sitting down my pole I grabbed the paddle.

"Hang on, buddy!" I yelled over the roaring water once again.

I saw him freeze before I saw the big black log in the middle of where we were heading. It wasn't moving, and neither was I.



Tanners point of view of the story is that he tells Ryan to face his fears and maybe he wont be scared of them eneymore and then Tanner bring Ryan to his fear to face and maybe it might be fun like it was fun to him when he had to face his fears.

I felt the burning golden sun rays sting my back as my fingers grasped around the muddy fishing pole. Next thing I knew, the line went shooting into the water. I gazed intently constant churning of the deep blue water. Suddenly, a move of the string caught my eye. I fought that quick scaled creature in a game of tug of war until it gave out. I shot it a glance of disappointment as I reeled it out of the river.

"Bigger," I said. "But not big enough". I turned to acknowledge Ryan, but he was too busy staring down the river like it was the most interesting thing in the universe.

"Tanner," he called, "there's nothing but rocks ahead." I cackled like a hyena.

"Get ready for the chute!" I shouted.

"The what?" If he actually knew what a chute was, I'd be shocked. Dude has been on the water in ages. I would usually go fishing with Brady, but he was out sick.

"The chute. River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight." I then dropped the fishing pole and went for a paddle. I doubt the kid could handle the chute himself. Heck, that kid didn't even know what a chute was until a few second ago! The loud crash of the vicious waves interrupted my thoughts soon after.

"It sounds like Niagra Falls!" I could barely hear Ryan's voice over the wild river.

"Relax, bro. It's just a little waterslide," I assured him. A simple chute couldn't stop us. Nothing I hadn't seen before. I then noticed Ryan's eyes peer ahead and lose focus of the paddles in his hands.

"Keep 'er straight!" I reminded him. Just then, we went flying down the cliff of water faster than a bullet. The river had no more signs of rocks once we were in the clear.

"That was awesome," I marveled. "Brady and I didn't get anything like that last year." Ryan paused a second before he replied.

"Tanner, that didn't scare you?" I can't believe he was surprised. Nothing scares me. I once battled a gator single handedly. Well sorta...

"Sure," I answered. "That's why it was fun," Ryan spends way to much worry. He should just learn to go with the flow. And by the flow- I mean the flow of the river.

"Maybe for you. I'm no hero." And there goes the sad puppy face. Now I'm supposed to make it feel better. Give me a break!

"Hey Ryan. That hero stuff- thats garbage. Then only heroes these days are the ones in video games or comic books." Yeah, like the ones who can shoot lasers out of their eyes! Saving an old man from a burning house is not like reading minds or using teleportation and invisibility.

We drifted along for awhile. It was warm in the sun. Until some ice water splashed on me. It was pretty refreshing in the hot rays.

Then we headed for the chute again. This time there was no cliff. Just big boulders on both sides of the river. I could hear the water roaring. We did everything right. The kayak was straight and we were in the middle of the river. I lifted my paddle and prepared to get through it.

"Hand on, buddy!" I yelled.

Just as we started down, I saw something ahead. A big black log. Right in the middle of the chute. With jagged end pointed straight at us. It wasn't moving. Not at all. And for the first time on the river, fear overcame me and my grip on the paddle let go.

I caught a fish, "Bigger. But not big enough". Ryan said that there were rocks ahead. I told him to get ready for the chute. I had to tell him what that was. He was scared but I was fine. I tried to calm him down. But then later there was another chute. But then Ryan saw a big jagged log with a point right at us. it wasn't moving. Now I was scared.

We floated for a while, and I took off my shirt because it was so warm. I caught another one, but I was disappointed when I reeled in the line with a bigger fish than the last. "Bigger," I said to Ryan. "But not big enough." Ryan looked downstream, and then a shocked expression seemed to cross his face. He eventually said, "Tanner, there's nothing but rocks up ahead." I laughed and shouted back, "Get ready for the chute!" This time his shocked expression morphed into a puzzled one. He replied, "The what?" I got a little annoyed when he said that. I replied with a bit of annoyance in my voice, "The chute." I said, rolling my eyes. "River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. just keep going straight." As I was putting down my pole, I saw Ryan glance over his shoulder with a disbelieving look on his face. I picked up my paddle, preparing to go forward. Then a stab of excitement hit my stomach when I heard the sound. Then a shiver seemed to pass through Ryan right before he yelled, "It sounds like Niagara Falls." A punch of annoyance passed through my head as I replied, also yelling, "Relax, bro. It's just a little water slide. Ryan seemed to be watching the surroundings. I yelled "Keep 'er straight!" to knock him out of la-la land. Another stab of excitement passed through as we passed through the first part of the chute. I couldn't see Ryan's face, or in front of him, so that made it the more entertaining. When we went down, it seemed like Ryan was scared, because he was clutching the sides of the kayak so hard, his fingers were turning white. when we had went all the way down, he turned around to look back at the chute as I was yelling, "All right!" I saw several emotions go through his face, but I didn't register them all. "That was awesome, Brady and I didn't get any thing like that last year." Another emotion I didn't recognize went through his face." Then Ryan said, "Tanner, didn't that scare you?" I replied, "Sure, that's why it was fun." Then Ryan said, "maby for you," he said "but I'm not a hero." I didn't reply. I caught a fish, but it got away. "Hey Ryan, that hero stuff--that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games or comic books." Then Ryan replied, "That's easy for you to say, he said," looking back at him,"

## Practice Set

(Order of Scores: Written Expression, Conventions)

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>P101</b>	<b>2,3</b>
<b>P102</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>P103</b>	<b>4,3</b>
<b>P104</b>	<b>1,1</b>
<b>P105</b>	<b>3,2</b>