

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Writing Piece:

## DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY

*"Words create sentences; sentences create paragraphs; sometimes paragraphs quicken and begin to breathe." — Stephen King*

You will be writing a 5-paragraph descriptive essay of at least two pages (double-spaced, one inch margins, size 12 Times New Roman font). Your final product will be typed and will include:

- ☐ Clear, well-organized ideas with a thesis statement, topic sentences, and transitions
- ☐ Varying sentence structure
- ☐ Superb word choice
- ☐ At least three examples of figurative language (but preferably more!)
- ☐ Correct grammar and conventions

*To write a descriptive essay, you'll need to describe a person, place, object, or event so vividly that the reader feels like he/she could reach out and touch it.*

*Your goal is to **show**, not tell!*

### ⇒ HERE ARE SOME PROMPTS TO CONSIDER:

#### **Special Person**

Think about a very special person in your life. Write an essay describing a family member, friend, or other person in your life who is special or unforgettable. Describe this person, including the person's appearance and personality. Use description and examples to explain why you think this person is different from other people. Also include why this person is important to you.

#### **Most Prized Possession**

Think about your most valuable possession in life. It can be something you inherited, something a family member or friend gave you, or something you have had since you were a small child. Maybe it's your favorite shirt, a gift your mother gave you, a painting you love, a trophy you won, or something else. Explain this object in detail, using all five senses so your readers can picture it in their minds even though they will not have a picture in front of them. Also include why this object means so much to you.

#### **Querencia**

In Spanish, "querencia" describes a place where you feel safe, a place from where you draw your strength of character, a place where you feel at home. It comes from the verb "querer", which means to desire, to want. Write an essay describing your *querencia* in detail. What makes this place so comforting for you?

#### **Reporting Music**

Imagine that your school newspaper has asked you to write an article about a musical performance. You can write about a school concert, your friend's violin recital, or even a performance you've seen (and heard) on television or the Internet. Write a report describing the musical performance in detail. Use all five senses so that your readers imagine the performance for themselves.

#### **Create Your Own Prompt**

Create your own descriptive essay prompt that **MUST BE APPROVED BY MS. FULLERTON BEFORE YOU BEGIN DRAFTING!** It must describe a person, place, object, or event. Take time to think about who or what you want to describe and why. The topic doesn't have to be famous or unusual. Keep in mind that memory and emotion play an important role in conveying the subject's significance.

# TENTATIVE DUE DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Writing Piece:

## DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY

### GRADING RUBRIC

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher *Fullerton*

#### SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

Score	Traits	Comments
____4 (EXCELLENT) ____3 (ACCEPTABLE) ____2 (BELOW AVERAGE) ____1 (UNACCEPTABLE)	<b>CLEAR, WELL ORGANIZED, WELL DEVELOPED IDEAS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Main idea (thesis) is clear.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentences in body paragraphs clearly relate to main idea (thesis).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Descriptive supporting details clearly relate to topic sentences.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transitions are used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, body, conclusion provide logical sequencing of ideas, leading to understandable description.</li> </ul>	
____4 (EXCELLENT) ____3 (ACCEPTABLE) ____2 (BELOW AVERAGE) ____1 (UNACCEPTABLE)	<b>SENTENCE VARIATION IN PARAGRAPHS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lead sentence captures the reader's attention.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Intro. participial phrase (Running with great speed, she won . . . ) (Surprised by the party, she . . . )</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 independent clauses separated by semicolon (Sam won the race; he is an excellent runner.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compound sentence (Marti won the race, and Sam came in third.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Appositive phrase (Marti, the best sprinter on the team, won . . . )</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Intro. prepositional phrase (With a burst of speed, Sam . . . )</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Intro. adverb clause (When Marti won the race, she . . . )</li> </ul>	
____4 (EXCELLENT) ____3 (ACCEPTABLE) ____2 (BELOW AVERAGE) ____1 (UNACCEPTABLE)	<b>WORD CHOICE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vivid, lively verbs are used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Precise, accurate nouns are used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Imaginative, unusual adjectives are used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No vague, overused, repetitive language is used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Striking words/phrases linger in the reader's mind.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Word choice gives the writer a personality, or "voice." The writer is individualistic and writes to be read.</li> </ul>	
____4 (EXCELLENT) ____3 (ACCEPTABLE) ____2 (BELOW AVERAGE) ____1 (UNACCEPTABLE)	<b>FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Metaphor (My room is a dumpster.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Simile (My room is as clean as an operating room.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Personification (My room whispers to me, "Come in; take a nap; do your homework later!")</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "Picture frame" word choice invites the reader to visualize a mental image or picture.</li> </ul>	
____4 (EXCELLENT) ____3 (ACCEPTABLE) ____2 (BELOW AVERAGE) ____1 (UNACCEPTABLE)	<b>GRAMMAR, USAGE, MECHANICS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No run-on sentences</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No sentence fragments</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Subject/verb agreement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Correct verb tense usage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation is correct.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization is correct.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spelling is correct.</li> </ul>	