

Taking a Risk

(Fluency Passage from Reading a-z)

Last week, my mother told me that she'd won some lessons at a dirt bike school. She quickly added that she wanted me to have them. My mouth dropped open because I've never been athletic. I don't even drive yet. "Think about it, Greta," she said. "It might be fun." I knew that I was ready for some excitement in my life, but I wasn't sure I was ready for dirt bike lessons.

Then I heard the words "I'll do it" coming out of my mouth. Before I knew it, I was at the dirt bike school. I had spent the morning learning all about dirt bike safety. Now I was putting on my gear, which included gloves, a helmet, boots, and a padded coat and pants. After learning about my bike, I would be ready to take my first ride.

Before long, and after only a few spills, I actually was riding a dirt bike across the sandy practice area. It wasn't easy. I really had to concentrate to manage the hand brake, the foot brake, and four gears all at once. To my complete surprise, however, I was having more fun and felt more confident than I had in a long time.

Later, I decided I was ready to attempt the trail. However, our instructor told us it was time for class to end. Now, instead of wondering if I'd enjoy riding a dirt bike, I can hardly wait for next week's lesson and the new things I'll learn.

In the story, Greta tried something new and learned that trying new things can be exciting. Write a story about a time you took a risk and tried something new. Be sure to include details in your story that tells the reader about your experience and how it made you feel.

Holistic Score: 4

CRASH! I fell onto the sharp rocks. As I saw the blood roll down my knee, everything went black. I didn't think this plan through.

It started when I was going to go outside to my backyard. My cousin and my sister wanted to go, too. So they followed. I climbed into the old trampoline, that my parents just rented, and started to jump with glee. My sister was watching me with a smirk on her face.

"I bet you can't jump off that trampoline," my sister said with a wink. My cousin looked at me with a do-not-do-it face. But, I ignored her warning.

Instead, I yelled, "I can, too!"

"Sure, you can," my sister said, being sarcastic. "If you think you're so brave then jump off the trampoline!"

With anger in my eyes, I jumped off the trampoline. I was being so thoughtless. I started to cry anxiously. My horrid cry caused everyone to come out of the house, to see what was going on.

They looked at me with a gasp. My sister quickly bolted to me to see if I was okay. Everyone else did the same thing. Breaking the silence, my mom cried and ran inside to grab some bandages. She came back outside and wrapped it around part of my leg. But, it didn't stop it from bleeding. I fainted from seeing all the blood rolling down my legs.

When I woke up, I was in a hospital. My sister was the only one there. Everyone else was in the hall, crying. She said she was sorry.

'She actually cares about me,' I thought to myself. That is a time I took a huge risk.

This paper exceeds grade-level standards. Ideas and details are solid and fluid, and the writer owns the topic. The story has an introduction that sets up a sense of anticipation and has a nice conclusion. The writer uses an appropriate structure to connect to the task. The reader definitely knows how she feels! Conventions are really high for a fifth grader.

Holistic Score: 3

The time I went on Space Mountain

One day when my mom and I were in California we decided to go to Disneyland. When we got there my mom asked "What rides would you like to go on?" As soon as I had decided we went on all those rides. When we did not know what to do next my mom suggested Space Mountain. I was a bit scared to go on at first because I didn't know how high up we would be or how fast we would go, but my mom said everything would be alright so I decided to go on.

We waited and waited until it was our turn. I could feel cramps in my stomach! "3,2,1!" I heard the man say and then in a blink of an eye we were going the speed of lightning! I could feel the air go through my hair, and I could see it blow my mom's hair. I had no idea how high up we were because it was pitch dark. I was screaming when we went down and up because I could feel my stomach drop.

As we were going so fast a bright light flashed above us. I didn't know what it was until my mom told me it was the camera. As the carts got slower I said to my mom "That's it?" She didn't answer me until we zoomed forward and were going around again. My mom was trying to talk to me but the air was so fast I could not hear her!

When it was over we got out to see our pictures, and as we looked at them we laughed because my mom's hair was everywhere and I was screaming. My mom said to me "Did you like it?" I answered that by saying "Can we go again?"

This paper is adequate and meets grade-level standards. Focused and developed use of details is appropriate and enhances the story. An introduction is evident, but does not set the tone for the story. Although it starts out dull, the conclusion is effective. Details, transitions, and sentences are solid, but do not exceed grade-level standards.

Holistic Score: 2

in this story, Greta tried something new and learned that trying new things can be exciting .and i agree with Greta that trying something new can be scary but it always ends up being fun.and with that being said it reminded of a time i tried something new and ending up liking it.one Friday afternoon me and my family decided to go to Disneyland everyone was so pumped.so all nigh we got ready for our exciting day. so when we woke up off we where.

so a few hours later we arrived at the most fun place in the world Disneyland .so we caught a train to take us up to the front so we could pick up our tickets we were so pumped.so the second we picked up our tickets we ran to the gate so we could enter. so we walked around the park and along the way we got painting and got to take pictures with disney stars that everyone loved.

so as hours past by we rode every ride in Disneyland even some of the baby rides. But when it came to space moutain i didn't wanna go because was way to scary and fast.but everyone else wanted me to go .so i took a risk a got on i was scared out of my mind but i closed my eyes and hanged on tight.i was screaming so loud everyone in the world could here me.but as the ride stared to end i opened my eyes and i thought to myself this isnt bad .so when the ride ended i wanted to go agin.everyone was shocked even me.but if but if you don't try new things youll never know and that moment i honestly knew how Greta felt.And now i love roller coasters.

This paper is inadequate. The writer uses information from the passage to reinforce the essay, but not in an effective manner. The paper has a simple introduction and conclusion. The writer's voice is evident and enhances the writing and shows commitment to the topic. There is no use capitalization except for proper nouns; beginning of sentences and "I" are not capitalized. There is overuse of "so" as a transition, making it ineffective.

Holistic Score: 1

wene i came home from school i saw my mom sighning some pappers and i asked her what she was sighning and she said self defence pappers .i was scared that i might get hurt as soon as i got their i wanted to leave but i couldn't so we did some exsersizes and the were enbarising but okey the teacher was so nice.i was doing a routine and did a round house kick.we learned how to chok someone the

yellow belts were showing us how to fight. at the end of th day .at the end of the day i figured i loved it so much i couldent wait till the next practice.

This paper is inadequate. The writer begins to develop the topic, but tells a story ineffectively. There is no introduction; the writer just starts telling the story. It has a conclusion, but there are no transitions to help with the flow. The writer uses grade-level word choice, but having to decode the words lowers the impact. This paper shows the writer has a sense of sentence, although they are not always correct. Conventions impede meaning.