



# **Young Children Learning to Write**

---

**An Xplorashun of Phorm  
& Phunkshuns**



# **An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development**

---

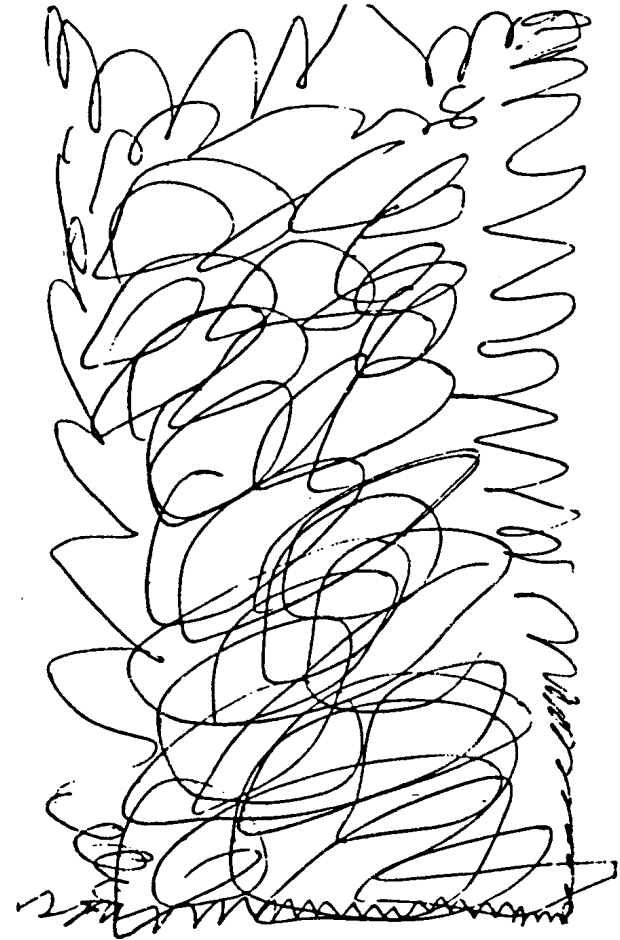
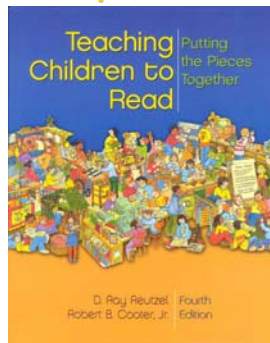
- **The Scribbling and Drawing Stage**
  - **The Pre-phonemic Stage**
  - **The Early Phonemic Stage**
  - **The Letter-Naming Stage**
    - **The Transitional Stage**

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Scribbling and Drawing Stage – Figure 2.6: Laura's Scribbles\*

- Exploration of Space
- Exploration of Form
- Exploration of Media
  - Exploration of Function

In Reutzel, D.R., & Cooter, R. B. (2004) *Teaching Children to Read: Putting the Pieces Together, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice Hall



# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Scribbling and Drawing Stage – Figure 2.7: Laura's Discovery\*

- Representing Meaning Using Dualistic Signs:
  - Symbols
  - Figures

In Reutzel, D.R., & Cooter, R. B. (2004)  
*Teaching Children to Read: Putting the  
Pieces Together, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Upper Saddle  
River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice Hall

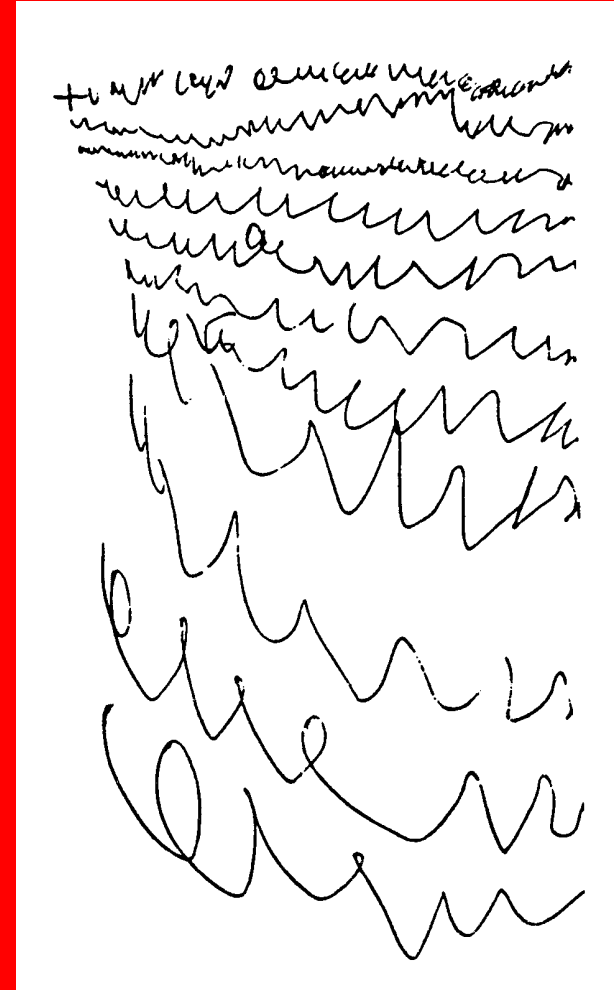


# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Scribbling and Drawing Stage – Figure 2.8: Laura's Cursive List\*

- Symbols
- Connectedness
- L -> R
- T -> B
- Fill the Space

In Reutzel, D.R., & Cooter, R. B. (2004)  
*Teaching Children to Read: Putting the  
Pieces Together, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Upper Saddle  
River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice Hall

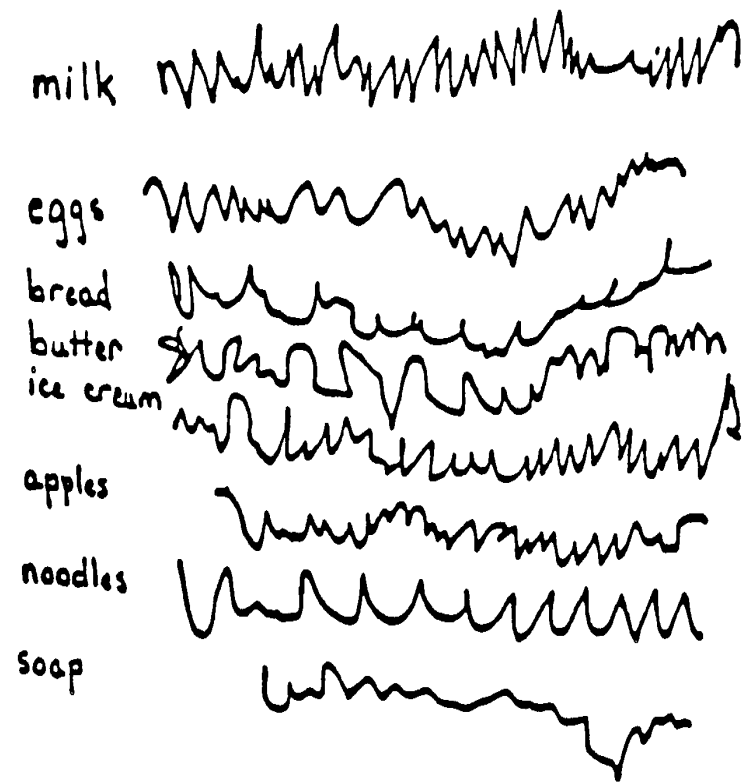


# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Scribbling and Drawing Stage

### SCRIBBLE WRITING

Age 3



**FIGURE 7.2** Three-year-old's scribble writing. She told her mother what each of these "words" meant (Temple, Nathan, and Burris 1982).

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Scribbling and Drawing Stage – Figure 2.9: Laura's Dualistic Symbol System Matured\*

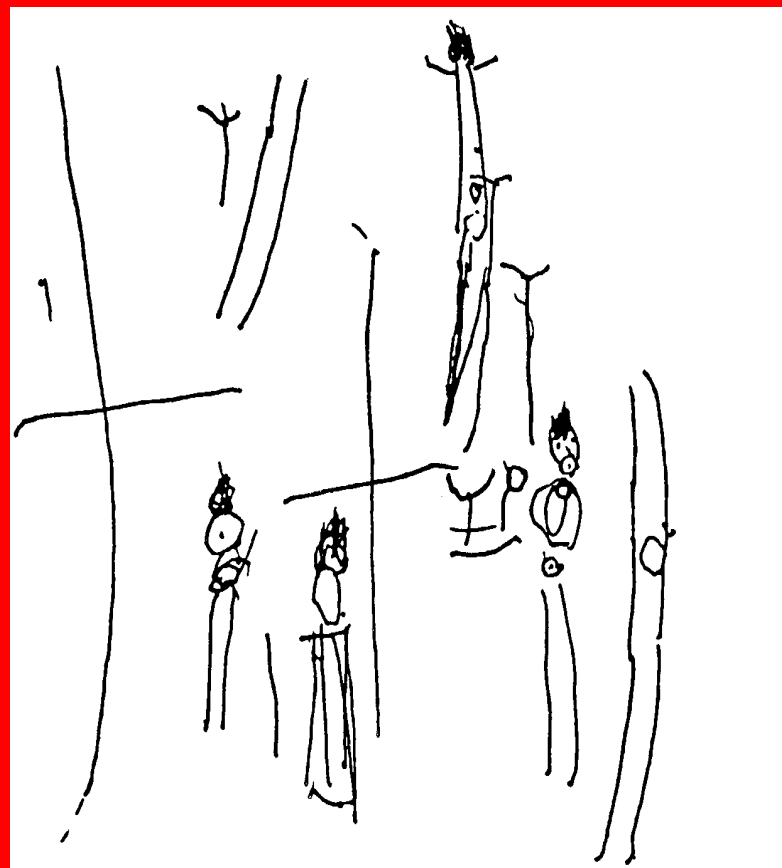
In Reutzel, D.R., & Cooter, R. B. (2004)  
*Teaching Children to Read: Putting  
the Pieces Together, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.*  
Upper Saddle River, NJ:  
Merrill/Prentice Hall



# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Scribbling and Drawing Stage – Figure 2.10: Cody's Thank You Note\*

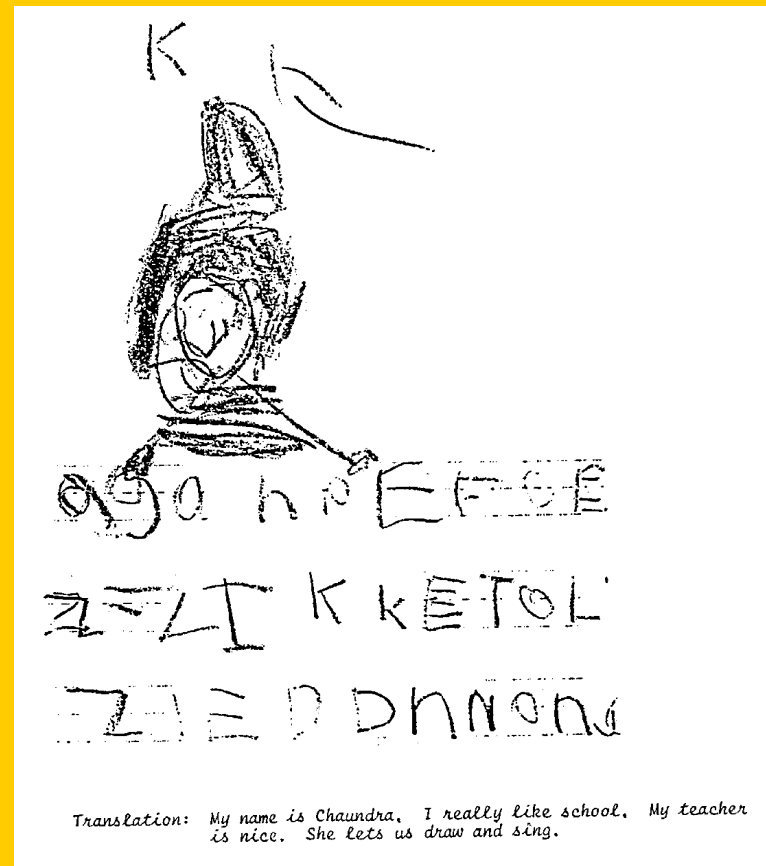
In Reutzel, D.R., & Cooter, R. B. (2004)  
*Teaching Children to Read: Putting  
the Pieces Together, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.*  
Upper Saddle River, NJ:  
Merrill/Prentice Hall



# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Pre-phonemic Stage - Figure 2.11: Chandra's Letter String

- What does this say?
- What did I write?



# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Pre-phonemic Stage

- Holds immediate meanings and intentions.

PREPHONEMIC STAGE

Age 4

T DOI  
i A B H B  
Z H L T Y O

Kindergartener

Tammr

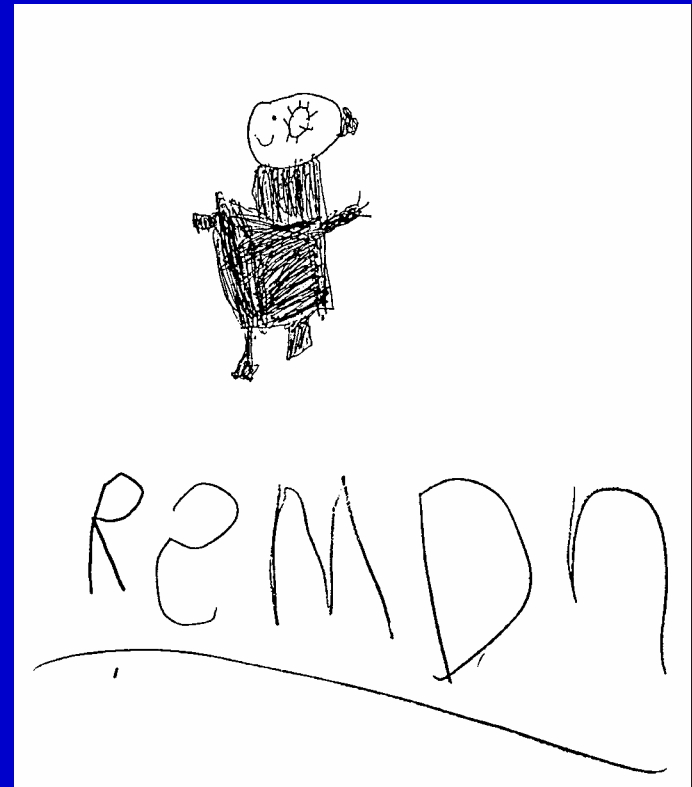
O ND I Y T U 9 K T O W O K J O W  
K O O Y J + U W K M O D J K W J O L  
K Y J W 9 H O D M J Y 0 K J H L  
O W V 9 D H D M 9 T A X J X K J X H L

**FIGURE 7.3** Four-year-old and kindergartener in prephonemic stage: the letters do not represent sounds (Temple, Nathan, and Burris 1982).

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Early Phonemic Stage:

- Letters represent sounds
- Uses 1-2 Upper-Case Consonant Letters



Translation: Randy is my Dad's name.

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Early Phonemic Stage:

- Our Car Broke Down
- My baby was with me last night
- I know you

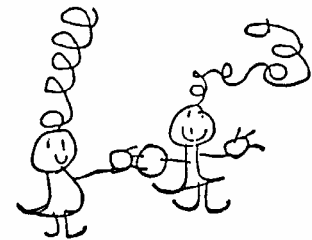
EARLY PHONEMIC STAGE  
Age 5

RCRDKD

Kindergartener

MBEWWMLH+

First Grader



INOu

**FIGURE 7.4** Children in the early phonemic stage. Notice the letter-name spelling of U for "you" in the last example. The first two examples are from Temple, Nathan, and Burris, 1982; the latter is from Dobson, Fall 1986.

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Early Phonemic Stage:

- There was a beautiful house

EARLY PHONEMIC STAGE  
First Grader  
The child represents  
each syllable with letters.

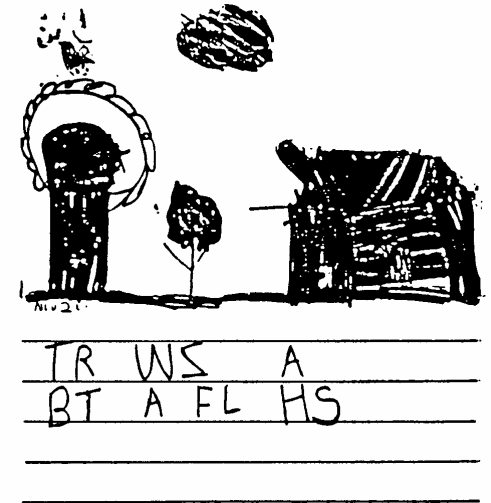
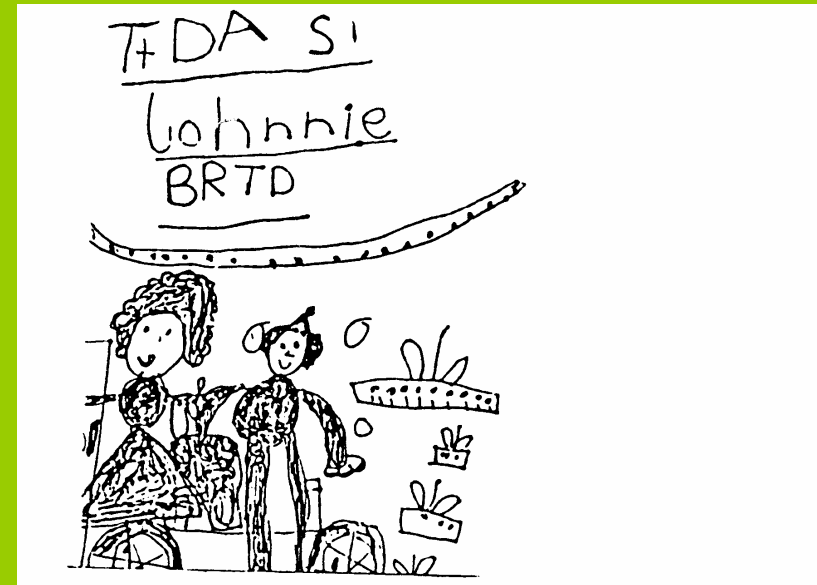


FIGURE 7.5 First grader in early phonemic stage using letters to represent each syllable of a word (Dobson, May 1986)

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Letter-Naming Stage

- Use of more than 1-2 consonants
- Addition of one or more vowel sounds



*Translation:  
Today is  
Johnny's  
birthday.*

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Letter-Naming Stage

FIGURE 7.7 *Four-year-old in the early letter-name stage (C. Chomsky 1971, p. 509)*

LETTER-NAME STAGE  
First Grader

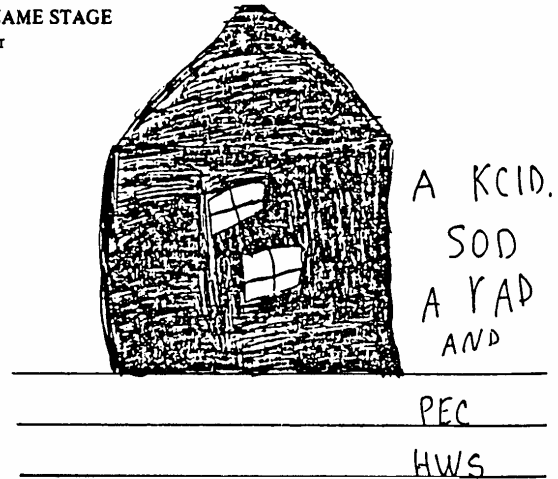


FIGURE 7.8 *First grader in the letter-name stage (Dobson, May 1986)*

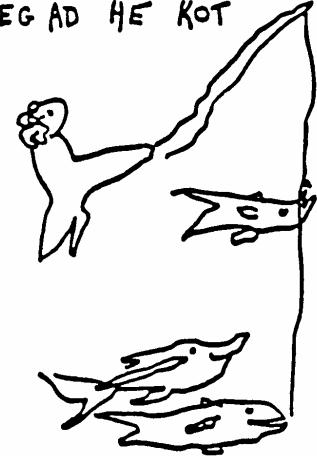
A kid sawed [saw] a red and pink house.

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Letter-Naming Stage

LETTER-NAME STAGE (early)  
Age 4

KUTZ A LADE YET FEH  
EG AD HE KOT FLEPR



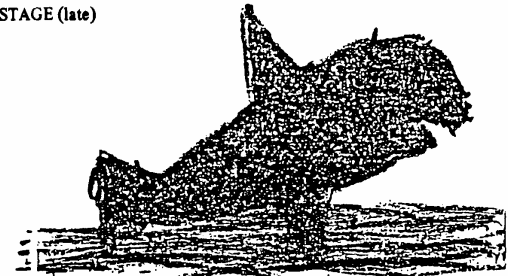
Once a lady went fishing and she caught Flipper.

Once a lady went fishing and she caught Flipper.

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Letter-Naming Stage

LETTER-NAME STAGE (late)  
First Grader



I:went:toot:the  
yeel The yeel  
yos a gtod yeel  
keeend

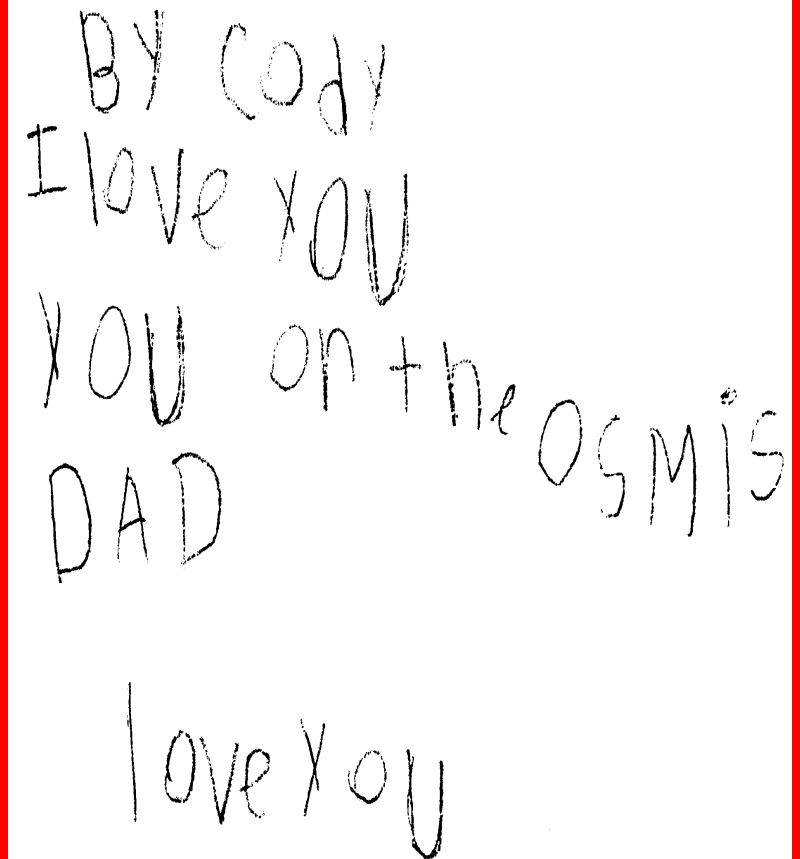
FIGURE 7.9 First grader in the late letter-name stage (the use of Y for /w/ shows the letter-name strategy, while the use of double vowel letters shows the influence of environmental print). (Dobson, May 1986.)

I went to the whale. The whale was a good whale.  
The end.

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Transitional Stage

- Writing looks like English
- Spellings use sound to symbol spellings mixed with conventional spellings
- Over generalize spelling rules/patterns

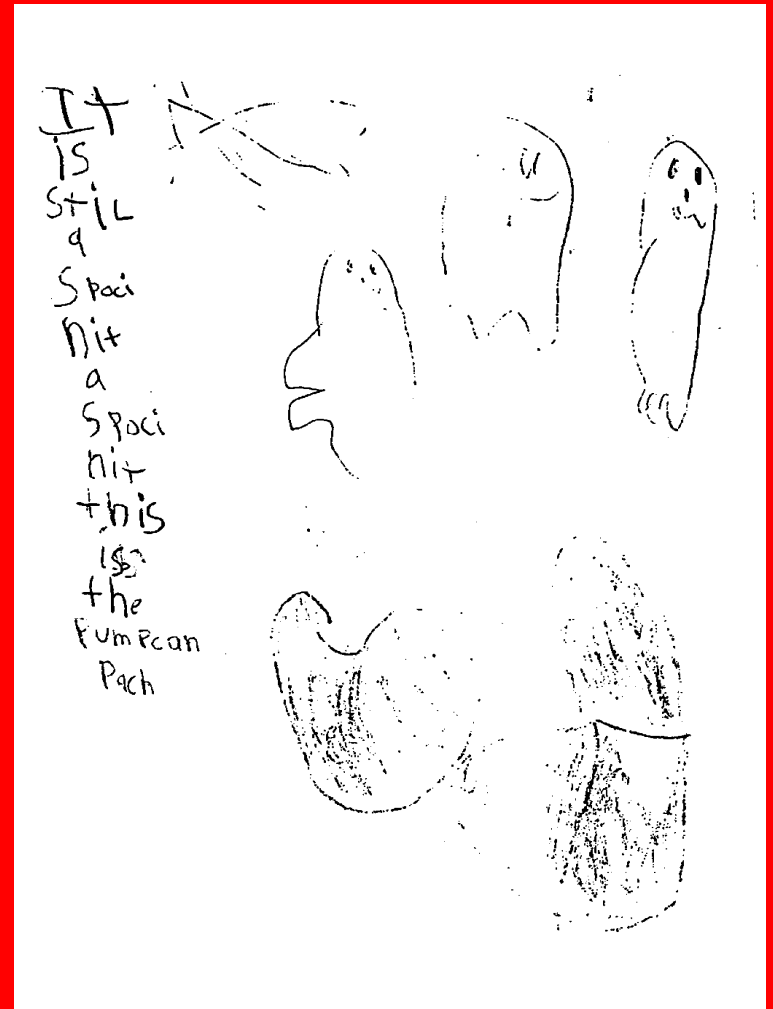


BY cody  
I love YOU  
YOU on the OSMIS  
DAD  
love YOU



# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Transitional Stage: First Grader's Story



# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Transitional Stage: First Grader's Note to Stay in from Recess

- **A lesson in language pragmatics: Getting what you want!**

Mandy  
Has + to stay  
in ass ~~to~~ recess

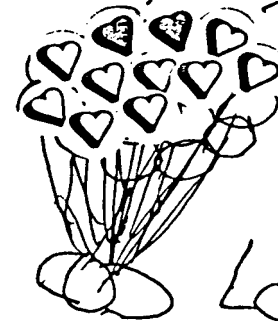
my MOM rot it  
Mandy  
Has + to stay  
in ass ~~to~~ recess

# An Overview of the Stages of Writing Development

## The Transitional Stage: Second Grader's Note to Parents

Dear mom and Dad  
you are the most wonderfulst parents.  
I hope my tummy stop's hurting  
I no you Gess I love you a  
you are very special. You are great.  
mom you are a wonderful worker I love you.  
Dad Thank's so much for  
Remember I love you with your help.  
love

Look on Candice  
Back of paper →



Love





# When Writing Really Matters!

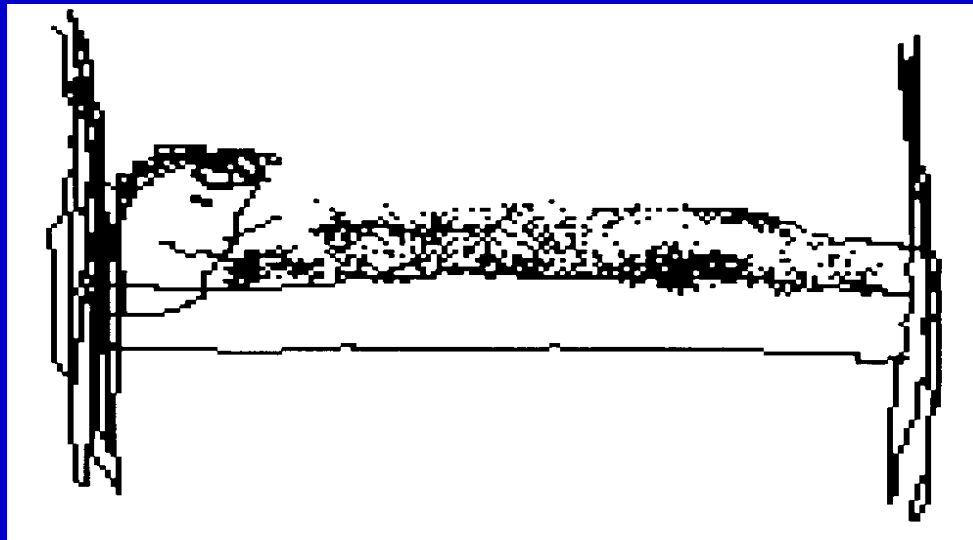
The Day My Mom Dide

By

Crystal Greenhaugh

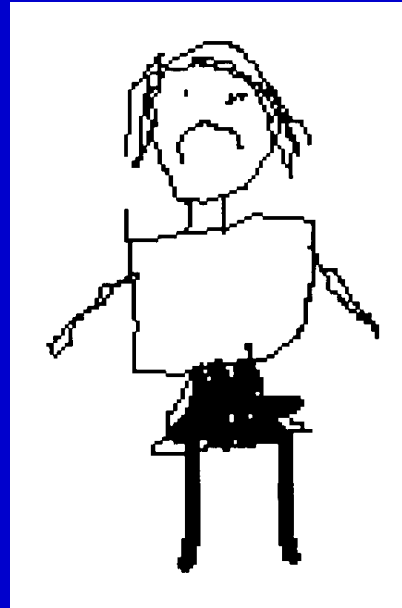
# When Writing Really Matters!

When I was two years old  
and my brother was 1. My  
mom was giting sick.



# When Writing Really Matters!

My mom was getting  
cancer.



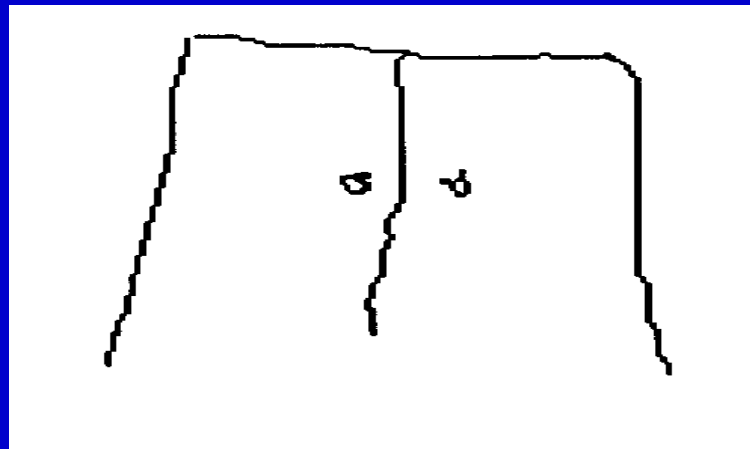
# When Writing Really Matters!

Cancer is a disease that  
eats your body.



# When Writing Really Matters!

When my mom was in the  
hospitl I cep on asking  
where my mom was. My  
Dad said this room.



# When Writing Really Matters!

Then one day my mom  
dide.



Kelly  
Roy  
Greenough

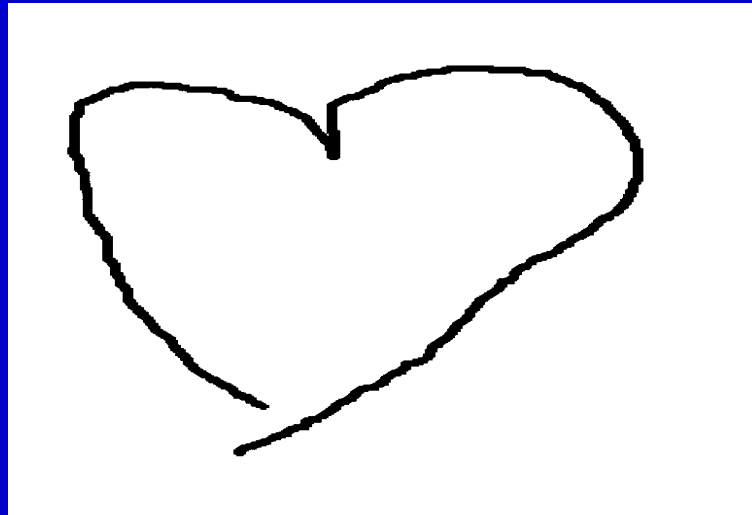
# When Writing Really Matters!

Her grave is in Nephi.



# When Writing Really Matters!

I love my MOM.



# When Writing Really Matters!

But now I have a new  
mom and I love her too.





# When Writing Really Matters!

*“It is tremendously important that we, as teachers of writing, fill ourselves with memories of time when writing mattered to us...and that we let our teaching be informed by those memories.*

**Lucy McCormick Calkins, p.13, 1994**

*The Art of Teaching Writing, New Edition*



# **Other Models of Writing Development**

## **Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary and Spelling Instruction**

**(Insert CD ROM)**

***Bear, Invernizzi, Templeton, &  
Johnston, 2004***