

[← Back to Writing Samples index](#)

No one ever said growing up was easy. Write about a recent incident that was a difficult but natural part of growing up.

Use the checkboxes below to display the corresponding benchmark text.

Student writing sample:

Friends are forever. Or so they say. The friendships I had in my country were so strong and important to me. And then life **interrupts**, paths change, and **friendships** are lost. **They say that difficult times help us mature.** I've had to mature too much **this last year.**

There were four of us who were best **friends**. We went to school 194. **Two of us** were in one grade nine form, and two of us were in another. We wrote many **notes** to each other everyday. We **traveled** on the bus together to school and we shared hair stuff, clothes, coats, etc. We shared everything. We were all **secretly** in love with certain boys who we **admired** in each of our classrooms. **If a boy was in a friend's classroom the friend had the duty of reporting his every action to the friend.** We listened to Western music and sang our favourite songs badly. We **criticized** our **dilemmas** and **argued** about **who** was the **worse off because** of what was happening to us. We listened each other and hugged each other when we needed a hug.

Then it happened, my parents told me to come into the main room and said that their **dream had come true.** We were approved to move to the west. **We would go in two month, during the summer so that I could begin grade ten in the new country.** New country? Different school? In two months!??? **My world crashed.** I started screaming "I'm not going, you can't do this to me, I'll stay with my friends, did anyone ask me??!" I cried and cried and ran out of the **flat** and **took** the bus to see my closest **friend**. She was shocked and we held each other and we cried and cried. **The next day** I shared the terrible news with my other friends. We **skipped classes** and walked and cried. We tried to think of ways that I **could get out of leaving but always** ended with the bad news - I **had to go. I had to start figure out this big change in my life.**

The next two months we spent our time promising to be friends forever. We **discussed** ways to keep in **touch** and **set** plans to meet in the future.

My parents didn't **understand** why I was so unhappy; they were so excited. I was a little bit **excited when** they said we probably would be able to buy a car **after a few** months and maybe **even** a house someday. And **even though** I was sure I would never find friends like the ones I had ever again I knew I had to go with my family. **To accept this change of path in my life was the hardest thing I ever had to do, but** I guess had to, I guess it's part of growing up.

Selects from a greater range of utility words (**notes, traveled, action, flat**), descriptive words (**strong, secretly, excited, few**), subject-specific words (**dilemmas, duty**), academic words (**reporting, discussed, understand**) and words with multiple meanings (**touch, set, even**).

Uses phrasal expressions (**two of us, dream had come true, skipped classes**), conditional structures (**if**) and a range of tenses in active voice (**My world crashed**) and passive voice (**The friendships I had in my country were so strong and important to me.**) with increasing accuracy.

Uses a variety of sentence types to express relationships of time (**We would go in two month, during the summer so that I could begin grade ten in the new country.**) and condition (**If a boy was in a friend's classroom the friend had the duty of reporting his every action to the friend.**).

Makes effective word choices (**interrupts, admired, criticized**).

Produces expository and narrative texts with a developing sense of audience, genre, voice and degree of formality (**Friends are forever. Or so they say. They say that difficult times help us mature.**).

Writes a cohesive, well-developed five-paragraph academic composition using a variety of cohesive devices (**this last year, who, because, then it happened, the next day, but always, the next two months, when, after, even though, but**).

Edits and revises texts for most punctuation conventions, word forms (**friendships, friends, friend**), word choice (**argued, worse off**), content, organization, verb tense (**took, could, get, had to go**), active voice (**I had to start figure out this big change in my life.**) and passive voice (**To accept this change of path in my life was the hardest thing I ever had to do.**).

Benchmark Ratings

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linguistic Vocabulary	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linguistic Grammar	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linguistic Syntax	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategic	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Socio-Linguistic	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discourse	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Editing	4

Overall Benchmark Level:	4
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