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| **A Whale of a Tale**  (Illustrated, published book; edited with teacher support; no revision)  By Mackenzie  Once upon a time there was a girl named Shelby. Her favorite thing to do was go to the beach with her best friend Mackenzie.  One day both girls made plans to go to the beach. When they got there, they decided to have a swim race.  They jumped in the ocean and started swimming. Shelby and Mackenzie were about 11 feet from the shore and a giant whale came swimming up to them.  At first the girls were afraid, but the whale said he was friendly. He picked up the girls and put them on his back. The water came out of his spout and surprised them.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | He took the girls for a long ride out in the ocean. After a while the whale brought Shelby and Mackenzie back to the shore. |  |   He said, Good-by and that he would look for them another day.  When the girls got on the beach they told their friends what had happened. The friends did not believe them. Shelby and Mackenzie didn’t care. They just looked at each other and winked.  The End |  |  |
|  | **Content**:  1. Develops a theme: best friends have fun together  and don’t care what anyone else thinks.  2. Includes at least 4 events  3. Adds details: 11 feet from shore; giant whale; he  was friendly; and water came out of his spout. |
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|  | Narrative **Structure:**  1. Begins with characters, setting (at the beach and  “Once upon a time.”)  2. Gives the Characters a goal (decided to have a  swim race) and sets up a problem (a giant whale  came up to them and they were afraid).  3. Includes a series of events  4. Rise in action to a climax is missing (not required  at this level)  5. Resolution (the whale brings them back to shore  and he says he’ll look for them another day).  6. Effective ending (the friends don’t believe them,  but they don’t care. “They just looked at each  other an winked.” |
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|  | **Voice & Point of View**  1. Slight voice beginning to develop as evidenced  by the ending.  2. Consistently is able to write in 3rd person using  the pronouns: *her, they, them, he, his*, and *their*. |
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|  | **Word Choice and Description** An attempt to add  description so the readers can picture how a giant  whale could swim up to the girls (11 ft. is a long  way in this author’s mind!) |
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|  | **Sentence Structure and Sentence Fluency**  1. Uses introductory phrases as signals/transitions  for chronology: *Once upon a time, One day, At first,*  and *After a while.*  2. Uses introductory clauses as signals/transitions:  *When they got there and When the girls got to the*  *beach* (complex sentences).  3. Uses one compound sentence: Shelby and  Mackenzie were about 11 feet from the shore  and (2) a giant whale came swimming up to  them.  4. Uses compound verbs: *picked up the girls and put*  *them on his back; came out of his spout and*  *surprised them;* and *looked at each other and winked.*  5. Attempts dialogue: *He said, Good-by*  6. Uses paragraphing. |
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|  | **Conventions**  1. Writes complete sentences with capitals and end  punctuation.  2. Spelling, edited with teacher support  3. Able to write in past tense, consistently using  past tense verbs; subject/verb agreement.  4. Needs punctuation for dialogue, compound  sentences and introductory phrases and clauses. |