Pupils Turn to Prose to Describe Spring

Mrs. Scheer's Third Grade

Time to write stories came on Friday to the third grade. A beautiful spring day and a topic "Spring" for discussed and stereotyped productions that are apt to result when some children are asked to express their feelings on paper.

But what is this?

It looks like a pleasant surprise from Jay Thomson! This isn't the usual run. As we read farther the tempo of spring picks up to include a little girl on a swing—"We-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e"—11 "e's" in all to emphasize a delightful boy's description of spring:

SPRING FEVER

Spring is so much fun, you can think of swimming in the water. The wind blows so soft you can hear a little whistling tune. There is a little girl over there on a swing "we-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e" and touching the sky. Children are running all around racing and running. I can see a boy riding a bike over there on the sidewalk. It is fun to have Spring Fever.

* * *

What next? An unusual beginning sentence on Daryl Martin's "Spring Weather". Isn't it super from a boy who sets out always to do his careful best?

SPRING WEATHER

Hi spring! Are you back again? I love your weather we have had the last few days. We cooked hamburgers on our grill it's been so nice.

* * *

Oh, wouldn't we all love to return to a time in our lives when the world looked as beautiful to us as it does to a lovely little girl like Barbara?

THE SPRING

I love spring because it is delightful. I love to see the flowers bloom. Isn't it a wonderful sight? What a beautiful world it is!

* * *

Here is just what the teacher has had in her sub-conscious mind. It just takes an interesting little girl to express it!

IT IS SPRING

I'm glad Spring is here because I've been waiting for it for a long time! Now we can ride our bikes and be able to go without our heavy coats and boots. When spring is here we can soon go swimming in lakes and pools too.

* * *

Jim Hoyt really let himself go on this one didn't he? It gives me a lift to read such a sincere dissertation on the joys of growing up on a farm expressed by this very likeable little boy.

SPRING

We hear birds singing and having their fun at spring. We swim and play and run and camp out at my house. See the new flowers coming up in the ground. Here are my ducks having fun. Take a long, long walk. Pack a lunch and go for a walk in the woods and eat your lunch then ride your horse and play cowboy and Indians on horse. Then if you have time make a raft and ride in the water in a good boat. Just do what you want to do!

Mrs. Scheer is a volunteer to ride my horse.

No thanks, Mrs. Scheer
Will NOT volunteer!
(Her Poem)

* * *

Which leads us mercifully to some better poetic expression by Craig Hulett and Shirley Gaston who are too highly important and interesting personalities in our room.

POEM

Spring is near,
Spring is near,
I wish I was out by now,
So I could see,
So I could see,
That spring is really here.
Craig Hulett

* * *

SPRING, SPRING, IT IS NEAR

Spring, Spring, it is near.
Pretty soon it will be here.
I like spring because you can go out and play. The sun shines all the day.
Now all the snow is melted away.
So I can go out and play.
Shirley Gaston

* * *

And so it goes. Who knows which child's work will show a spark of individuality next week?

Perhaps it will be a change of pace like this one written by one of the most enthusiastic learners we have in our schools.

* * *

THE MISERY

The spring fever brings the thought of summer misery. It is the feeling that soon the heat will kill you. That part really gets you about spring—David Lester

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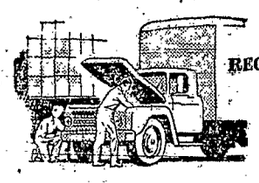

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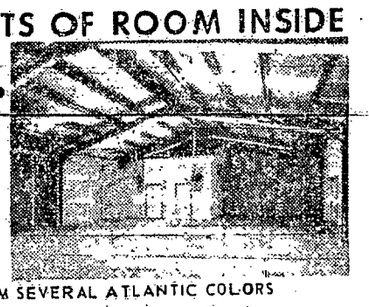

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WASHINGTON REPORT

By CONGRESSMAN FRANK HORTON

From my office window on Capitol Hill, I can look over the roof of the Rayburn House Office Building toward downtown Washington and the executive departmental offices.

Two days after Martin Luther King was slain, the usually pleasant view from my window was marred by pillars of thick, black smoke, rising from fires that had been set by "fire bombers" during the Washington riot.

On the Rayburn roof, a flag flew at half-mast, honoring Dr. King, while in the background much of Washington's inner-city was being robbed, looted and burned to the ground. It was apparent to me that the wanton criminals who caused this destruction had no concept of the meaning of grief or sorrow over the loss of this clergyman. To them, the assassination of Dr. King did no more than provide an opportunity to wreck and steal what belonged to honest citizens and small businessmen in the Nation's Capital.

Before the rioters finished their "reign of terror" over several Washington neighborhoods more than $30,000,000 worth of goods and property were stolen, burned, or destroyed, and more than 7,000 arrests were made—many of them for serious felonies which will not go unpunished.

More than 12,000 crack U. S. troops and National Guardsmen were deployed in the city, where most of them remain, standing watch over the aftermath of this April nightmare.

In addition to the millions of dollars worth of property they destroyed, the rioters brought this great city to a grinding halt. Curfews were imposed which lasted for a week. Conventions and other large gatherings scheduled for the Cherry Blossom season in Washington were cancelled; businesses closed — some never to open again. For several days, all citizens were required to be off the streets by 4 o'clock in the afternoon, to free troops and police to concentrate on the troubled areas. Many thousands of Americans, including several from Western New York, cancelled high-school or family visits to the Nation's Capital. The Cherry Blossom festival was called off.

How ironic it is that in the height of Spring, the most beautiful time of the year, our Nation shows its ugliest face—the face of hatred, racism and lawlessness.

The day after the height of the riots here, I toured the affected areas, where most of the more than 700 fires and thousands of arrests had taken place.

It is difficult to imagine, but there were more U. S. military vehicles and troops on the streets of Washington than I saw on the streets of Saigon last January when I toured military installations in Southeast Asia.

One of the saddest moments I have ever experienced as a Congressman was when I drove my family by the Capitol Building and saw its steps guarded with machine-gun armed soldiers and Marines. That such precautions should be necessary in this great democracy is truly tragic.

There is a brighter side to the events of that week, however. The double-barrelled shock of Dr. King's death and the ensuing riots re-awakened Washington's citizens to the dangers and the folly of violence as a means of expression in a democratic system. The vast majority of Washington's residents deeply mourned the loss of Martin Luther King, and their mourning was coupled with the shame they felt at the wanton acts of their rioting neighbors.

My hope is, that the combined effect of these experiences will rekindle the conscience of American civilization. We must rededicate ourselves to solve with equal firmness and resolve the problems of poverty and joblessness and the intolerable outbreaks of destruction and disorder. I have pledged to work in Congress for progress on both of these crucial fronts.

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