

Nebraska Department of Education

2010 Statewide Writing Assessment

Grade 8 Task: DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

Write an essay describing your most memorable time of year. It could be related to a season, a holiday, or an event. Use specific sensory details so that anyone reading your essay will be able to create a mental picture and understand why it is memorable to you.

PROFICIENT*

- * Creates a limited picture; description is limited.
- * Sequencing is somewhat logical; pacing is inconsistent.
- * Conveys a limited sense of the person; is occasionally expressive.
- * Occasional use of specific or precise words.
- * Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure.
- * Errors in conventions may distract the reader.

* This writing sample received a score of 6.00.

Although there are many moments in a year, Christmas morning is my favorite. My family always has many traditions at our house. I can even remember Christmas mornings when I was very young.

First of all is Christmas Eve. This is the day that I am the most excited. When the sun starts to set you always put out cookies and a big glass of milk for Santa. Along with carrots for the reindeer. Then you go to bed but you can't sleep. As you lay there with your eyes open one minute seems like an hour. You are also thinking about your wish list and what you will and won't get.

The next part is the best of them all, Christmas morning. You wake up in the morning feeling tired and excited. All of the waiting is over and you can see what Santa gave you. Almost as good as opening the presents is looking at the beautiful paper and lights on the tree. First thing to open is the stockings with their boxes of candy and small toys. Then comes the grand-daddy of them all, the presents. The big boxes of joy and mystery that could hold anything from a T.V. to a puppy.

Last, I will tell my four favorite gifts of all time. My fourth favorite gift of all time was a Nintendo 64 which was something completely new to me. My third favorite gift of all time was my first bike which was bright red and gold. My second favorite gift I ever received on Christmas was a flat screen 64 inch T.V., for the entire family of course. Above all the other gifts I have ever gotten an X Box 360 is the absolute best.

All in all it is easy to see why Christmas morning is my favorite part of the year. There are traditions, activities, and plenty of presents to open. It is very challenging to find another holiday as fun as Christmas.