**Trend Task:** A Day I’ll Never Forget

**Approach:** Independent

**Focus:** Writing a story about a personal event

**Year:** 4 & 8

**Resources:** Video recording on laptop computer, 4 individual answer sheets, 4 Spell Writes, 4 red pens, timer

**Questions / instructions:**

This activity uses the computer.

In this activity you are going to plan an interesting piece of writing. You will be doing it over three days.

Today, after watching a short video, you will have a few minutes to think about what you might write and put down some of your ideas. On the second day you will have time to write, and on the third day you will have some time to check your work and make any changes that you want. I will give you a booklet for writing in. Each day I will collect it back in, then give it back the next time you come.

**DAY 1 INSTRUCTIONS (INTRO). 5 Minutes.**

Today you are going to think about and plan what you will be writing.

We’ll start by watching a video which will help you get started. It shows some times that are special to people, and should help you start thinking about times that are special to you. Your writing is to describe a day you’ll never forget.

Click the A Day I’ll Never Forget button.

Remember, you’re going to describe a day that was very special to you; a day you’ll never forget. It should be true and not make-believe. On the first page of your booklet, write down some of the ideas that you might want to use. Don’t start writing the piece today. You can have 5 minutes to think about and plan your ideas.

Hand out booklets and blue pens. Allow 5 minutes then collect back the booklets.

**DAY 2 INSTRUCTIONS (TEAM / INDEPENDENT). 20 minutes.**

Yesterday you started to think about what you will be writing. It is about a time that is very special to you; a day you’ll never forget. I’m going to give back your booklets and today you will have time to do your writing. You will have 20 minutes, and I’ll let you know when you have used half of the time, and when you have 5 minutes left.

If you don’t know how to spell some words you need, try to spell them as best you can without asking me or someone else. Use a PENCIL or BLUE PEN today.

Remember, what you write about should be true and not make-believe. It should describe the day you will never forget, so that when others read what you have written, they will know what happened on that day, and why it was special to you.

Hand out students’ booklets, pencils and blue pens. Tell the students when 10 minutes and then 5 minutes remain.

Collect booklets back at the end of the time.

**DAY 3 INSTRUCTIONS (STATIONS). 10 minutes.**

Yesterday you did some writing. Today you are to check it through very carefully and make any changes or improvements that you think should be made.

Only use a RED pen today. Don’t use a rubber. If you want, you can also use a Spell Write.

You have 10 minutes for doing this.

Hand out booklets, red pens and Spell Writes.

Allow 10 minutes then collect back booklets.
Chapter 3: Expressive Writing

Content:

Vividness: (use of language, imagery)
- extremely rich and vivid: 1 (0) year 4, 13 (8) year 8
- good vivid description: 14 (9) year 4, 43 (34) year 8
- some elements described: 50 (51) year 4, 39 (48) year 8
- no/very little description: 35 (40) year 4, 5 (10) year 8

Relevance: (how much on the day/event)
- majority: 64 (55) year 4, 84 (84) year 8
- about half: 17 (27) year 4, 11 (14) year 8
- some: 11 (11) year 4, 4 (2) year 8
- very little or none: 8 (7) year 4, 1 (0) year 8

Detail:
- very detailed and clear: 4 (4) year 4, 31 (18) year 8
- quite detailed: 34 (19) year 4, 47 (50) year 8
- some elements detailed: 46 (61) year 4, 20 (30) year 8
- unclear: 16 (16) year 4, 2 (2) year 8

Communicating personal feeling: (communicated how special the day is to them)
- very high: 4 (4) year 4, 19 (20) year 8
- quite high: 16 (15) year 4, 37 (33) year 8
- some: 41 (33) year 4, 37 (41) year 8
- very little: 39 (48) year 4, 7 (6) year 8

Editing:
Extending: (at end of writing)
- substantial: 2 (1) year 4, 3 (1) year 8
- slight: 8 (7) year 4, 8 (18) year 8
- none: 90 (92) year 4, 89 (81) year 8

Inserting: (in middle of writing, either between or within sentences)
- substantial: 0 (0) year 4, 5 (0) year 8
- slight: 25 (20) year 4, 48 (47) year 8
- none: 75 (80) year 4, 47 (53) year 8

Subgroup Analyses:

Commentary:

The total score was based on the four content elements, not the editing. There was a small improvement between 2002 and 2006, for both year 4 and year 8 students. Year 8 Pakeha, Māori and Pasifika students performed comparably but girls were more prominent than boys among the high performers.
At the beach

One day, I went to the beach in my mum’s car. It doesn’t go very fast when it’s packed with stuff in the boot! It’s even more funny when we saw all the cars going straight ahead of us. We had been driving along the road. I went with my friends to the beach along with my mum and two sisters. We took a mini hibbit set. For lunch we cooked bangers, marshmallows and took other things like fruit and treats. Then we my two sisters Morgan and Alexandra we went down to the sea. I ran too fast and cut my foot. I really hurt. Morgan did too but her one wasn’t so bad. Then we remembered about the first day kit. Oh No! she said, So I had down to the sea to was my foot. Then I saw a shiny stone. I picked it up. Forgetting about my foot and started polishing it.

On my 21st I went to Summer. It was really fun and exciting. Because it was my first time on a plane and first time in Summer. When I was on the plane, I put my jumper on and when I arrived there it was warm and then I got more hot and so I had to wear my singlet. It was so cool. I went on free bus rides two times. I drank coconut drinks. I ate the stuff that was in the coconut. At night I had a plate hot to my self. Oh and my cousin sister come from America. Soon. She gave me tips. When I was sleeping I saw television. Hanging up on the wall. It was so Freddie. I had a swim in the pool. It was so cooling. When I got there it was cool and met my aunts and uncles. When I left I was supposed to see my mum and dad. I was about to cry and the next was one day out ever better.
A Day I'll Never Forget : Exemplars

YEAR 4 – HIGH RANGE

A day I will never forget.

First we had to drive to Auckland Airport and then take a long time, then we had to give them our bags so we did. Then we went up stairs and got a thick seat, then we went through customs and we got some chips and dad said we have a long time but then a voice said everyone.

Flying to Fiji should be on the plane. So we ran as fast as we could to the plane and gave them our passports, then we were on the plane.

We got a activity book that said some Fiji words. We had lunch on the plane which I did not like. Then we saw the plane. The plane we saw the pink panther film. Then before I knew it, we were on the main Island. We went to the Hotel where we stayed at for the night. We had a big water slide. As soon as we unloaded, I got in the pool and met two friends that were going to the same Island as us. In the morning for tea we had some. The taster and we saw a movie.

YEAR 4 – HIGH RANGE

A Day I'll Never Forget

At my Grandad's farm

A Day I'll Never Forget

Last year I was coming back from my bush in camp and on the way back my mum and dad had a MASSIVE surprise for me and we're it is I was gonna get a dog! Anyway we were holding with and dad turned to go on the bridge. I asked why are we going this way? My dad answered ‘can't tell... It's a secret’ and I assumed okay. So we were driving along a cliff face and a sheep were on the road. We towards them and they started running away. It was such a site all the could see wide the sheep.

Finally we arrived at the place. I figured out why we were there. As soon as I got out of the car I went to play with the dogs. The further would leave me alone so just kept playing and going home. Two or three hours later my mum and dad came out of the house and picked up a dog. The shouted said goodbye and as I got in the car my dad and said it's yours. And as we drove home the dog slept in my knee. And as we came back the shoes were running away from the car.
A Day I’ll Never Forget

On the 13/11/05 it was my 12th birthday. On that day my four friends came over to my house and we had a party. We played games and did quests. We went bowling. After bowling we had lots of food. The ice cream, KFC and food. I ate a huge cake. The best birthday cake I had ever had. We had a chef’s hat and a picture of a roster on it because I was born on the year of the roster and that year was the year of the roster as well. After the food and the cake we gave each other presents. I got an iPod nano and a cell phone for my birthday. I will never forget that day because of the very nice cake and the very cool presents that my mum and dad gave me on that wonderful day.
Chapter 3: Expressive Writing

A Day I’ll Never Forget: Exemplars

**YEAR 8 – HIGH RANGE**

It was Monday. I crept out of my bed silently and began reciting my speech. Mum told me to fix up my errors, but I wasn't terribly loused.

Mum dropped me off at school, I kissed her and said goodbye. 'Good luck!' she shouted.

When I arrived in class my teacher (Mr Hatacak) shook my hand and said “good luck.” He told me I could practise my speech at play time. I couldn't stop thinking about all the people that would be there. My confidence just vanished and went away. After play time it was “go time.” My mates tried to amp me up but they failed. I was just dead quiet. “Piri your up.”

I was shivering. Different emotions went through my head. I was confused. There was just a blank look on my face.

I said some of my speech then all I heard was “Go, you can do it.” And I just stopped. I forgot everything. Man I was embarrassed. But then I carried on and it wasn't so bad. I made it through. I came off the stage as if a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. I was done.

And that was a special day that I'll never forget in my whole entire life.

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**YEAR 8 – HIGH RANGE**

My head was filled with anticipation as my mum said we'll be climbing to the big Mt Mannin. I was nine and a half so I had just finished my last gulp of bacon. Mum said we'll be going in ten minutes so get ready. I stuck my running shoes on and got my water bottle ready. “Right were off” said mum in a rather loud voice.

I was walking to the base which was about 1km away. I thought in my head I'm going to conquer this mountain to the very peak. Before you know it we were at the base of the jelly mountain. I said to my big brother Cole "race you to the top" he said "bring it on." He sprinted at start but I just jogged because I knew he'd run out of breath soon. It was about half way up I caught up to him and over took him. You should of seen the look on his face. I couldn't believe it. I was beating my big brother through rough rocks over loose ground. But eventually we got to the peak and of course I ate him.

We weren't quite at the top but we still had to rock climb a bit. We got off the look out and went around a big bush. I could see where we had to go. I felt the butterflies come in but I carried on climbing one more little rock to climb over done. I stuck my hand on the trig station I've done it in the top of the view a day I'll never forget.