

## Henry David Thoreau Resident Author

“It’s not what you look at that matters, but what you see.” (H.D.T.)

Good descriptive writing depends on developing skills of observation using the senses of sight, touch, hearing, smell, and sometimes taste. Henry Thoreau was a master at this type of writing, and as the resident author, he is inspiring the creative juices of the junior high. Students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, under the direction of junior high writing teacher Mrs. Przybojewski, have been developing a keen sense of observation by describing the same natural area at least three times a week. This assignment began the first week of school and will continue to the end of the school year.

Mrs. Przybojewski is so gratified to see the progression and development of her students’ writing. They are beginning to write with an observant eye, and she could not be happier. Just look at some of these observations:

“The sky looked gray with bits of white; it was like playing connect the dots...I thought about literal and figurative storms. Literal as in thunder, lightning, and rain storms. Figurative as in fighting or conflict.” (Mia Dent, Grade 8)

“Today was gloomy. The clouds are grey. From our neighbor’s garage, I see the sun setting on the horizon giving off a faded orange. Every once in a while, the wind will blow making the trees rustle, and the leaves blow away. Sometimes, it looks as if the leaves are chasing each other. The cold was now getting unbearable, and the coldness was painting my nose and cheek red.” (Caitlyn Brzozowski, Grade 7)

“The colors of the oak tree leaves are greenish yellow (like a banana peel), dirty brown, and cranberry. The pine needles on the tall pine trees that reach the sky are like needles. It’s a passion of colors on the trees that express the tree’s feelings. The tree’s feelings are speaking to tell me about not using paper and not cutting them down. (Brie’anah Hill, Grade 6)

“Today is not that cold. The leaves seem to be very pale orange. There is a random pile of sticks to the right center of the yard. The pine tree towards the west is a darker shade of green on the lower part of it. Towards the eastern part of the yard, there seems to be more leaves on the trees. The colors of the leaves are gray with little black lines running through them. The grass is a pale yellow and looks like hay.” (Louis La Guardia, Grade 6)

These are just a few of the many wonderful observation journal entries that students have been writing during the past few months. More will be shared in

Students also doodle what they see just as Henry doodled in his journals.

