

TEARS OF A TIGER WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Sharon Draper's *Tears of a Tiger* is a story that begins with a tragic accident--a fatal car crash caused by drinking and driving. The story is then told from the points of view of the group of friends involved. Gerald, a character from *Tears of a Tiger*, wrote the following excerpt as a homework assignment.

" If I could change the world I'd get rid of peanut butter, bandaids, and five-dollar bills. I know this sounds like a weird list, but I got my reasons.

First, I'd get rid of peanut butter. When I was little, peanut butter and jelly was my favorite kind of sandwich. Mama would fix it as a special treat and it always made my lunch box smell so good. But Mama left and the peanut butter stayed. We get it free, so there's jars of it sitting around. Sometimes that's all there is. It sticks to my teeth and it seems like it sticks my bones together--it always makes me feel clogged up.

I'd also get rid of bandaids--for two reasons. One, they're beige. They say on the box, "skin tone" is the color of the bandages inside. Whose skin? Not mine! So I hate wearing bandaids because they're so noticeable and people always say, "How'd you get that cut, or that bruise, or those stitches?" And I always have to make up a reason about how I hurt myself. When Andy came back to school after the accident, he was wearing a bunch of bandaids. At least, it took the attention away from me for awhile. But I'd still eliminate bandaids--at least beige ones.

Finally, I'd get rid of five dollar bills. With a five dollar bill, somebody's dad can buy a bottle of whiskey, a nickel bag of pot, or a rock of crack. He smokes it, or drinks it, and goes home and knocks his kids around, or his wife, (before she got sick of it and left.) He makes his kids wish they could leave. The next morning he doesn't even remember what he did. With a five dollar bill, Andy and the guys bought a six-pack of beer. They ended up buying five dollars worth of death. It seems like all a five spot can do is buy trouble, so I'd get rid of five dollar bills. So, to make my world better, I'd get rid of peanut butter, bandaids, and five-dollar bills." - *Tears of a Tiger*

Using the homework assignment that Gerald wrote as a guide, write a persuasive paper that includes an introduction, three support paragraphs, and a conclusion. You can use one of the ideas below, or you can choose your own:

- "Three problems I wish I could solve."
- "The three things that annoy me the most."

- Complete the graphic organizer prior to writing your paper
- Show graphic organizer for a grade on or before: September 4, 2013
- Written paper Due: September 5, 2013
- Include a title
- Remember grammar conventions
- You may write the paper in first person or third person

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

HOUR: _____

TEARS OF A TIGER GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Introductory Paragraph One:

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Thesis Statement:

Paragraph Two Support:

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Paragraph Three Support:

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Paragraph Four Support:

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Conclusion Paragraph Five:

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Restatement of Thesis: