

Tommy Thinker (name)
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8th Hour (hour)
Reflection Piece (genre)

Reflection Piece The Misunderstanding

This piece is about two friends in middle school, Jeff and Todd. They had been friends for several years, but became close friends in sixth grade. Their friendship fell apart during seventh grade because of a misunderstanding over a girl.

The most difficult part of writing this piece was in deciding what to write. I had already written about our family's trip to Florida twice. I had also written about the big game in baseball when we defeated Bloomingdale in the bottom of the ninth. I was ready to try something besides personal narratives but didn't know what. I asked a couple of classmates what they were writing about and listened to other people's ideas during 'status of the class.' It seemed like many kids were trying fiction stories, so I decided to try one too.

Next, I needed to think of an idea for a fiction story. I decided to start with ideas that I know something about, like being in middle school. I chose to write realistic fiction with two main characters, Jeff and Todd. I thought about the plot development and decided on the conflict of character versus character. I detailed the conflict while students were changing classes and everyone was in the hallway. *Lockers slammed, students giggled and called out to each other, and a faint smell of spoiled oranges drifted through the halls. I spotted Jeff and felt my face turn red with frustration.*

I tried to make the characters seem like real people by using snapshots to describe them. *Jeff's tall and lanky frame loomed down the hallway, his longish blond hair, carefully messed swayed back and forth. I easily spotted him because he stood a head above the other 200 seventh graders trying to get to class. I described Todd like this, Todd was an average kid. He was of medium height, sandy brown hair, brown eyes and a little shy,*

especially around girls.

The full circle ending I used really tied the story together. I used a set up lead. *Todd spotted Jeff turning the hallway corner. It wasn't hard because of his height. Todd thought, What do I do? He decided to continue on his way and to glare at Jeff as they passed. I ended the story in a similar way. Todd spotted Jeff turning the hallway corner. Glaring at him Todd continued walking toward Jeff. As he came up beside Jeff his glare turned into a wide smile. He playfully slapped him on the shoulder saying, "Hey, ready for the game tonight."*

Overall, I thought the piece turned out well and I plan to try writing another realistic fiction piece next.