“The General”

A day in the Philippines, above villages and trees, war was in the air. Guns fired, planes flew and demanding officers screeched in frustration at their “green” privates. This was a typical day for General Douglas McArthur, an American general of World War II, also Field Marshal of the Philippine army during WWII. McArthur also participated in WWI. He even won the Medal of Honor! General McArthur was a highly decorated soldier. He earned seventy silver crosses! McArthur was a general, a leader—something that I’m not—and probably won’t be, and an amazing hero from our history.

General McArthur was in wars, which meant he saw death, tons, and tons of death. Sometimes people have psychological trouble dealing with all the bloodshed, death, and sights of war. They may even have trouble fitting back into society. It can’t be easy coming back to your own country and getting back on with normal life.

“A Rock Star”

One person, ten albums, millions of fans, a world famous band and his name is Jimmy Page.

Jimmy is the guitar player for Led Zeppelin and he leads a world-famous band. Wow! How I wish I could be the guitar player for Led Zeppelin. The thing I admire most about him is that he is a really good guitar player. I’m not too bad myself, but Jimmy Page actually has a band and millions of fans. What’s cool is that he can play the mandolin too. A mandolin looks like a small banjo, with the top four strings of a guitar, but doubled! Jimmy is also very rich and famous. He has ten great albums, a world famous band, and millions of fans!

Jimmy inspired my Dad to play guitar, and then my Dad inspired me to play guitar better. His world famous band, Led Zeppelin, has made many great albums, all of which I own. Millions of people listen to his music and, like myself, have all of the Led Zeppelin albums. He was in one of the most famous bands of all time.

“A Pretty Cool Job”

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States has entered the room! Barack Obama has a pretty cool job. He’s the President of the U.S. If I had to be someone else for a day, I would probably choose him.

I really respect President Obama because he really tries to help everybody to the best of his ability. He tries to keep us safe too. I also appreciate him because he is about 45, and I am only in grade, still trying to figure out politics. He is trying to stop poverty all over the country, and he makes a lot of the most very important decisions for the country.

The second reason I would like to trade places with the president is that he is very involved with kids’ education. Even though it’s not that good to raise taxes, he is raising them so we can have better education. That shows that he really cares about learning.
“Being a Spy”

I know only one spy, and that spy can do things with a rope that seem unimaginable. His name is Alex Rider, a spy for MIG, and I would want to be him for a while.

I really like Alex Rider because of his intelligence, his fighting, his computer hacking, and his infiltrating skills. I could never do any of those things, and I’m not nearly as adventurous as Alex is. He even infiltrated a billionaire’s home to spy on him for MIG. He got captured after a week a put in a tank with a killing jellyfish that tried to eat him. But he had a gadget, given to him by MIG, called acid crème, and he applied it to the glass of the tank and busted himself out. Talk about getting in and out of trouble! It turns out that the billionaire tried to blow up the world’s computers killing millions, but Alex Rider stopped him. Isn’t that wicked? I definitely couldn’t do that.

If I had an instructor to teach me martial arts I would want it to be Alex. He is very skilled at fighting—unlike me. Like I said before, he can do things with a rope that seem unimaginable. He once knocked out more than 20 guys with just a rope. Talk about using your resources. I would want to be able to do that. He also defeated a Chinese Mafia boxer who was a champion. I would definitely want Alex’s career.

Me being one of the world’s greatest spies? Me being famous for saving the world 7 times? That would be the life.

Now - answer these questions in your books.

Have you read the characterizations above?

Grade 6 children have written these descriptive pieces.

What makes them so good?

1. In each one of the pieces of writing underline the words that talk about the character’s personalities. Make a list of these characteristics in your Writing book.
2. Highlight the dramatic language that entices you to read the descriptions.
3. In your book make a list of any adjectives that you think are interesting and that you would like to use in your writing.
5. Each piece of writing starts off in a different way. Which one do you think is the most interesting beginning to a narrative and why.
6. If you had to begin a narrative about a famous Australian, how would you begin it? Write a few sentences to describe that person (min 5 lines)
7. Choose two of these ‘story starters’ to begin a description of a fictional character/place. (5-10 lines)

   a) There she was standing next to the dog, with a silly grin across her face........
   b) Standing alone on the beach, his hair was plastered to his head...............  
   c) The man stood staring at the hole in the ground, his mouth wide open in fright........
   d) The scrawny dog ambled up the road, head swinging widely side to side in search of ............
   e) The book lay open on the desk. Its pages were ......................
   f) The house looked like a ‘show piece’ straight from a magazine. Tall trees lined the .........................