

# Katie's Writing Inspiration

A 4th grade girl named Katie was at an assembly in school. The principal announced that there would be a 4<sup>th</sup> grade writing contest. Katie was really excited about this news. The three winners would get to visit with an author, and Katie was really good at writing. This will be easy to win, Katie thought.

When she got home, Katie rushed into her bedroom to begin writing her story. She was such a good writer that she had the perfect story finished in two days. She was so excited to show her mom that she tripped over the contest information paper and landed on the floor! Laying on the ground, Katie stared at the paper and her story. The story had just barely made the minimum of 75 words. Realizing her story was too short, Katie felt like giving up. There were even more problems with her story. Words were spelled wrong, sentences ran on, and the sentences all started with the same words. Katie knew her story would never win the contest. She was just going to give up.

The next day, Katie was doing some math homework when the doorbell rang.

Katie, go get the door," her mom said.

When Katie opened the door, it was Kristen, her friend from school. Kristen came in, then bent down to pick up a paper. Next, she took a moment to read it. "I just found an amazing story on the ground. Can use it for the contest?" joked Kristen.

"Very funny," said Katie. "That's my old story. You don't want that!"

"It's very good, even if it's short," said Kristen. "I like how the girl helps her friend at the end. I think it's better than my own story!"

"Really?" asked Katie.

"Totally," answered Kristen. "With a few edits, it would be perfect!"

"You're right," said Katie. "This is a great story. You're the best, Kristen!"

After her little talk with Kristen, Katie edited her story a bit more. She read over it and thought it was good. Later, she put her story in her backpack so she wouldn't forget it. Katie really did feel like it was great.

At school the next day, Katie turned in her story to her teacher. During class time, Katie was impatient and nervous. The winners of the contest would be announced at the end of the day. Finally, it was time.

"We will now announce the three winners of the 4 grade writing contest," came the principal's voice on the speakers. "Our winners are John..." From next door came an excited scream. "...Kristen..." Kristen smiled at Katie. "...and, Katie!" Katie jumped up and down. She had won!

A week later, Katie, John, and Kristen were in a room waiting for the author. When she came in, they talked about their winning stories. Katie felt like a real author who won an award for her book. She was proud of her winning story.