Student Writing Sample

Prewriting exercise:

- Teenagers, boys, in front yard of house next to us
- Me in my driveway with Vickie, Ellie, and Mom
- Jenny and Krissy, potty-training
- Chair; white chair being their nickname for the mini toilet
- All the teenagers started cracking up and went inside.
First draft:

It was a hot muggy day in July.

I was in fourth grade when my most embarrassing moment occurred. It was summer, July, and my neighbor’s son was having some sort of coke party. He was 16, 17, and invited all his other high school friends to his house. They were all lounging in his their front yard.

Me, being a 4th grader, thought they were Gods. I offered to watch Vicky and Ellie in the driveway so I could watch them. Mom came out too; she didn’t trust me to watch Vicky and Ellie alone with teenagers in the next yard.

I pushed Vicky along in a little car, discreetly glanceing to where my idols sat.
Second draft:

It was a hot muggy day in July. The house was cramped, and if the truth be told, it stunk as well. Jenny and Krissy, 4 year old pains, were potty training. I will spare you the details.

“I’m going outside” I yelled as I pushed the screen door out into the front yard. I couldn’t make out any reply, which was expected. Krissy had just found out toilet paper was a multi-purpose product. I stepped out on our lawn and surveyed the neighborhood. The Sealie’s had left a baby carrage out in their front lawn again. The next thing that immediatly caught my attention was a group of teenage boys in the yard next door, loungeing around and trying to avoid the sun. I crept forward to watch them, hoping to learn a few more “bad words.” I couldn’t really here anything, but I was too afraid to get closer.