Sample Quick Writes from Vivian Johnson’s Eighth-Grade Class

Sample 1

Ready to go home

I look back at what I had left

A black work of nature

Is sitting there, staring at me.

I walked away thinking

about what I had just done

to my precious dog

I left it there

In the middle of
Sample 2

Asking for their legs
the terrified soldiers
belched out my name
All the blood and guts.

It was horrible
This was not in the
Sample 3

quiet bulging eyes
stare at me through a window
my sister is spying on me again
stealthy as a fox
she darts behind the door frame
only her shirt tail visible
Sample 4

“ready to go home”

The train glide through the tunnel with a barely audible hum. It was late and I was, admittedly, tired. That mosh pit had taken a lot out of me but, god, it was worth it. I have never been to a show that good.
Sample 5

The boys were born
Without their legs
So they came to me
I work with artificial
Hearts, legs, arms
So they came to me
As I looked upon
Their helpless faces
I noticed hope
Sample 6

not ready to go home
I stayed with my friends
in our dorm room
until the last possible
second
Not knowing if I'll ever
come back to this place
not knowing what next
year will bring for us
Not ready to go home yet
Not ready to leave camp