Hamster-Eye View

Category: Writing Activity
Series: The Coding Club (*Robot Rescue*)

Supplies
Robot Rescue, paper and pencils

Prep
Read *Robot Rescue* as a group, or assign it to students to read ahead of time.

Directions
As a group, discuss the key story elements in *Robot Rescue*. Your discussion should touch on character, theme, plot, conflict, and point of view. Students should identify the main character (Marco Martinez) and the third-person perspective. If needed, review the difference between first-person and third-person narration.

Ask the students to write a story from the perspective of Dr. Whiskers. It should start when she escapes at school, and it should tell about what happens to her while she is lost. The story should be written like a diary entry, using first-person narrative and be no more than two pages in length.

Ask for volunteers to read their stories out loud to the class. Ask the students to compare and contrast their classmates' stories with *Robot Rescue*. What did the stories tell them about Dr. Whiskers that the book didn't? What information was in the book but not in the stories? Did the stories tell a different version of any of the events or give a different explanation for them? Did changing the point of view affect how the students felt about any of the characters? For example, did writing from the hamster's perspective make the humans seem scarier?

Evaluation
Did the students use first-person narration consistently throughout their stories? Could they correctly identify the differences between the book's point of view and their stories' points of view? RL 4.6

Purpose
To help students compare and contrast the point of view from which stories are told, especially focusing on the difference between first and third-person narratives.