

Excerpt from *You Say, I Say (Speak It: Write It)*

By Mary Ellen Ledbetter

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Example Paragraph for Question # 4

What is your favorite piece of furniture?

- a. An outdoor swing
- b. A couch
- c. Desk chair with computer
- d. Pillows on the floor

[**A swing is my favorite piece of furniture**] (**Topic Sentence**). For one thing, swings are **outside (Reason #1)**. I can escape from my brothers and sisters strapped to my ankles in the house, shadowing my every move, and be in the wide open spaces. I can also feel like something besides just me—a **bird** maybe (**Reason #2**). If I push high, higher, higher still, I'm almost up in the tree tops, the clouds, the heavens -- chattering with my feathered friends. Something else very important is that I can work out my **problems** on swings (**Reason #3**). Somehow the motion puts me at ease, and answers to things bothering me seem to pop right into my head or maybe the big bad monster hovering over me flies away with the wind. [**Swings, who wouldn't love them?**] (**Concluding Sentence**)

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Example Paragraph for Question #11

To whom do you tell your secrets?

- a. A friend of the same sex
- b. A friend of the opposite sex
- c. Your girlfriend / boyfriend
- d. Someone older—parent, grandparents, aunt, uncle, etc.

[When I have a secret, I tell my best friend, Diane] (Topic Sentence). It's like a cherry on top of an ice cream sundae to know you can **trust** someone (**Reason #1**). When Bethany and Nathan stole apples from Mrs. Furley's tree and vegetables from her garden, I pinky-finger swore Diane to secrecy. To this day, nobody knows the identity of the Pine Drive fruit and vegetable thieves. Another thing is that Diane **confides in me** (**Reason #2**). When her mom and dad were yelling a lot, Diane told me and nobody else. I told her that I'd loan her the angel that watches over me for one whole week, and I guess it worked—no more yelling. Maybe the biggest reason is that we give each other **friend advice**, not parent lectures (**Reason #3**). I look into those big, wide, innocent eyes of hers and know exactly what she feels. It's like I put a band aid on the scary, sore part of her and she does it for me too. **[It's the best thing in the world to have a friend to share secrets] (Concluding Sentence).**