把流水账日记改成真日记：扫雪作文的三处修改

拿一篇很常见的平淡日记《雪停了，我们扫雪去》，一段一段改。改三处，流水账就变成了日记。

原文第一段：雪停了，我和爸爸出去扫雪。爸爸给了我一把铁锹。「给了我一把铁锹」是报告。问：什么样的铁锹？比人高吗？拿到手先干了什么？改出来的段落：爸爸从柴房拿出两把铁锹，大的那把比我高，我搬起来锹头拖在地上。爸爸把小的给我，是一把蓝色的塑料雪铲。我像拿剑一样拿着它，朝前面的雪砍了一下。像拿剑，是这个孩子自己的。

原文第二段：我们扫了很久，把院子扫干净了。「扫了很久」是劳动日记里最空的四个字。问：谁扫哪块？扫的时候听见什么声音？有什么东西特别难扫？改出来的段落：爸爸扫车道，铁锹碰到石头当啷响了一声。妈妈铲台阶前面的冰，那块冰铲了半天不掉。我的任务是把雪推到院子角上，一堆雪推上去塌下来，推了三次才站住。铲不掉的冰和塌三次的雪堆，这两样就是劳动本身。

原文第三段：看着干净的院子，虽然很累，但是很开心。「虽然很累但是很开心」是二到四年级日记里最常见的结尾，能贴进任何一篇做事的日记。问：扫完以后你干了什么？扫出来的雪变成了什么？手是什么感觉？改出来的段落：院子角上的雪长成了大雪堆，我把顶上拍平，坐了一个拳头大的小雪人。进屋的时候，手冰得拿不住筷子，可是我饿得很，吃了两碗。这一段写完，「很开心」就不需要了——累和开心都在里面。

三处修改的办法是同一个：不替孩子写，只问问题。原句是报告，回答才是日记。日记和作文的分别，就在日记只写自己那天看见和做过的事。

家长可以备三个问题：你的工具是什么样的？谁管哪一块？雪堆最后变成了什么？孩子一写「扫了很久」「很开心」「很累」，就从三个问题里挑一个问。他的回答就是新的一段。

还要注意：这三处修改没有加一个成语。低中年级的日记不需要成语，需要的是工具的重量、石头的当啷声、塌三次的雪堆。孩子的记忆里全有，只是没人问。

改完的日记让孩子抄一份，贴在冰箱上。下一个下雪天，扫雪以前读一遍。他会想起上次拿的是哪把铲子、雪堆上坐了什么。日记就该这样被读，不是写完就扔。

Turning a Running Account into a Real Diary: Three Repairs in a Snow-Shoveling Entry

Take a very common flat diary entry titled The Snow Stopped, Let's Go Shovel and repair it paragraph by paragraph. Three repairs, and a running account becomes a diary.

The original first paragraph read: The snow stopped, and Dad and I went out to shovel. Dad gave me a shovel. Dad gave me a shovel is a report. We asked: what kind of shovel, taller than a person, and what did you do with it first. The repaired

paragraph: Dad brought two shovels out of the woodshed, and the big one was taller than me, so that when I lifted it the blade dragged on the ground. Dad handed me the small one, a blue plastic snow shovel. I held it like a sword and slashed once at the snow in front of me. Like a sword belongs to this child alone.

The original second paragraph read: We shoveled for a long time and cleaned the yard. For a long time is the emptiest phrase in labor diaries. We asked: who took which area, what sounds did you hear, and what was hard to shovel. The repaired paragraph: Dad took the driveway, and his shovel rang clang once against a stone. Mom was scraping the ice in front of the steps, and that ice refused to come off no matter how long she scraped. My job was pushing snow into the corner of the yard, and one pile collapsed as fast as I pushed it up; it took three pushes before it finally stood. The stubborn ice and the pile that collapsed three times are the labor itself.

The original third paragraph read: Looking at the clean yard, I was tired but happy. Tired but happy is the most common ending in second to fourth grade diaries; it can be pasted into any diary about doing anything. We asked: what did you do after the shoveling, what did the shoveled snow become, and how did your hands feel. The repaired paragraph: the snow in the corner had grown into a big mountain, and I patted its top flat and sat a snowman the size of my fist on it. When we went inside, my hands were too cold to hold the chopsticks, but I was so hungry that I ate two bowls. Once this paragraph exists, happy is no longer needed; the tiredness and the happiness are already inside it.

All three repairs use one method: do not write for the child, only ask. The original sentences are reports; the answers are the diary. The difference between a diary and a composition is exactly this: a diary writes only what this child saw and did that day.

Parents can keep three questions ready: what was your tool like, who took which area, and what did the snow pile become. Whenever the child writes for a long time, or happy, or tired, pick one of the three questions and ask it. His answer is the new paragraph.

Notice also that these three repairs added not one idiom. Lower and middle grade diaries do not need idioms. They need the weight of a tool, the clang of a stone, and a snow pile that collapses three times. The child's memory already contains all of it; nobody has simply asked.

Finally, have the child copy the repaired diary and tape it to the refrigerator. On the next snowy day, read it once before going outside. He will remember which shovel was his last time and what sat on top of the snow pile. That is how a diary is meant to be read, not written and thrown away.