把平淡的草莓日记改好：三处修改

拿一篇很常见的平淡草莓观察日记，一条一条改。改三处，平淡的日记就变成了真的观察日记。

原文第一条：3月28日，草莓苗开花了，花是白色的，很美。「很美」是标签，不是观察。问：开了几朵？几片花瓣？中间是什么？改出来的第一条：3月28日，草莓苗开了两朵白花，一朵五片花瓣，中间是一簇小黄球。我蹲在窗台边看了很久。数完了，「很美」就不需要了。

原文第二条：4月，花谢了，长出了一个小绿草莓。这一条把最要紧的过程跳过去了。问：花是怎么谢的？草莓是从哪儿冒出来的？改出来的第二条：4月15日，一朵花的花瓣干了，掉了。花原先的位置底下鼓起来，变成一个绿色的小疙瘩，上面全是小籽。妈妈说，那就是草莓。我一直以为草莓是从粉红色的花苞里长出来的。孩子自己的错想法被自己的眼睛改过来，这是整本日记里最好的一条。

原文第三条：5月8日，草莓红了，我摘下来吃了，真甜。「红了」「真甜」是水果日记里最旧的两个说法。问：哪头先红的？多大？甜在哪里？改出来的第三条：5月8日，尖尖那颗全红了，另一颗还白着一半，靠近把儿的地方是白的。我掐了一下把儿，它就下来了。草莓很小，还没有我的大拇指大。我咬了一口，尖尖是甜的，发白的地方是酸的。味道分成两半，红也分成两半，这条日记里才有真草莓。

还有第四处小毛病值得提：平淡日记的每条日期都一样，因为它是月底一次补出来的。真日记补不出来，家长也不要求孩子补。条目要在写它的那天记，哪怕那天只有一行。

三处修改的办法是同一个：不替孩子写，只问问题。原条目是报告，回答才是观察。

家长可以备三个问题：今天看到了什么？它和昨天有什么不一样？你最奇怪的是哪一处？孩子一写「很美」「红了」「真甜」，就从三个问题里挑一个问。他的回答就是新的一条。

还要注意：这三处修改没有加一个成语。三四年级的日记不需要漂亮的词，需要的是五片花瓣、小黄球、靠近把儿的白。孩子的眼睛里全有，只是没人问。

还有一件事：改完的日记让孩子读给妈妈听。妈妈听到「我以为草莓是从粉花苞里长出来的」那一句，会笑出声，然后补一句——花店里那种开粉花的盆栽草莓是看花的，很少结果。妈妈补的这一句，也可以写进日记里。观察日记是可以全家一起说厚的。

Turning a Flat Strawberry Diary into a Real One: Three Repairs

Take a very common flat strawberry observation diary and repair it entry by entry. Three repairs, and the flat diary becomes a real observation diary.

The original first entry read: March 28, the strawberry plant flowered, the flowers are white and very pretty. Very pretty is a label, not an observation. We

asked: how many flowers opened, how many petals, what is in the center. The repaired entry: March 28, two white flowers opened on the strawberry plant, each with five petals, and the center is a cluster of tiny yellow balls. I crouched by the windowsill and looked at them for a long time. Once the counting is done, the word pretty is no longer needed.

The original second entry read: April, the flower withered and a small green strawberry grew out. This entry skips the most important process. We asked: how did the flower wither, and where did the strawberry come from. The repaired entry: April 15, the petals of one flower dried up and fell off, and the base of the flower swelled into a small green ball covered with tiny seeds. Mom said that is a strawberry. I had always thought strawberries grew from pink flower buds. A child's own mistaken idea being corrected by his own eyes is the best entry in the whole diary.

The original third entry read: May 8, the strawberry turned red, I picked it and ate it, so sweet. Turned red and so sweet are the two most worn-out phrases in fruit diaries. We asked: which end turned red first, how big was it, and where exactly was it sweet. The repaired entry: May 8, the strawberry at the tip was completely red, and the other one was still half white, white near the stem. I pinched the stem and it came off easily. The strawberry was small, not even as big as my thumb. I bit into it. The tip was sweet, but the white part was sour. The taste is divided in two and the redness is divided in two, and now the entry finally contains a real strawberry.

There is a fourth small flaw worth mentioning. The flat diary dates every entry with the same day, because it was written in one sitting at the end of the month. A real diary cannot be written that way, and the parent should not ask the child to catch it up. The entries must be written on the days they describe, even if the entry is only one line long.

All three repairs use one method: do not write for the child, only ask. The original entries are reports; the answers are observations.

Parents can keep three questions ready: what did you see today, how is it different from yesterday, which part do you find strangest. Whenever the child writes very pretty, turned red, or so sweet, pick one of the three questions and ask it. His answer is the new entry.

Notice also that these three repairs added not one fancy idiom. A third or fourth grade diary does not need beautiful words. It needs the five petals, the yellow balls, and the white part near the stem. The child's eyes already hold all of it; nobody has simply asked.

One more thing: after the repairs, have the child read the diary aloud to Mom.

When Mom hears the line about thinking strawberries grew from pink flower buds, she will laugh out loud and add that the pink potted strawberries at the flower shop are grown for their flowers and hardly ever bear fruit. Whatever Mom adds can go into the diary too. An observation diary is something a whole family can thicken together.