

## ACTIVITY 6

Add an absolute at each caret mark (^). The last five sentences illustrate that good writers sometimes use more than one absolute to elaborate the same situation in different ways.

### EXAMPLE

*Incomplete Sentence:* By and by, we began to sing, the two of us ^ .

*Sample Absolute:* By and by, we began to sing, the two of us blending in harmony.

*Original:* By and by, we began to sing, the two of us singing different songs simultaneously.

Truman Capote, "A Christmas Memory"

1. His ^ , the shamefaced Taran hurried from the cottage and found Coll near the vegetable garden.  
Lloyd Alexander, *The Book of Three*
2. Their ^ , he continued to work with the leaf, pulling off half-inch-wide strips and laying them in a pile.  
Robb White, *Deathwatch*
3. A large car, its ^ , sped through the intersection against the red light.  
Frank W. Dixon, *The Secret of the Old Mill*
4. She sat down, her ^ .  
Robert Lipsyte, *The Contender*
5. On impulse, he went in, bought a bag of gumdrops, and went on up the street, his ^ .  
Hal Borland, *When the Legends Die*
6. Sitting alone in the dark, his ^ , some ^ , he started crying.  
Gary Paulsen, *Hatchet*
7. Exhausted, stomach ^ , mind ^ , Harry fell into an uneasy sleep.  
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
8. The creatures, some ^ , others ^ , were all watching him intently.  
Roald Dahl, *James and the Giant Peach*
9. The whole surface of the wall was an intricate map of cracks, some ^ , others ^ .  
Gerald Durrell, "The World in a Wall"
10. I was alone and orphaned, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, hanging on to an oar, ^ , ^ , ^ .

### ACTIVITY 3

To practice creating absolutes, substitute a new absolute for the existing underlined one.

#### EXAMPLE

*Author's Absolute:* He walked away from the street, his shadow leading the way.

David Wroblewski, *Edgar Sawtelle*

*Student's Absolute:* He walked away from the street, his faithful dog behind him.

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1. Pain shooting up my entire arm, I lay panting on the edge of the pool and gingerly began to feel my wrist.  
Theodore Taylor, *The Cay*
  2. The flies crawling endlessly on him, Ben felt everything dropping away.  
Robb White, *Deathwatch*
  3. Gerard, his elbows spread wide on the arms of his chair, stretched his legs further under the table and looked at the fire.  
Elizabeth Bowen, "Foothold"
  4. Stacey stopped, a worried look on his face.  
Mildred D. Taylor, *Song of the Trees*
  5. Dawn was starting to break over the mountain peaks, the colors of early morning sunrise beginning to identify themselves against the ashy gray of the escaping night.  
William P. Young, *The Shack*