

Due on 3/4/16

Unit 1 Mini-Lesson

Personal Narratives



What is a personal narrative?

A personal narrative is a nonfiction text that retells an experience from the author's life. Most personal narratives are about something "big" in the author's life, such as a proud or sad moment, a trip or adventure, or an event that changed him or her in some way.

What is the purpose of a personal narrative?

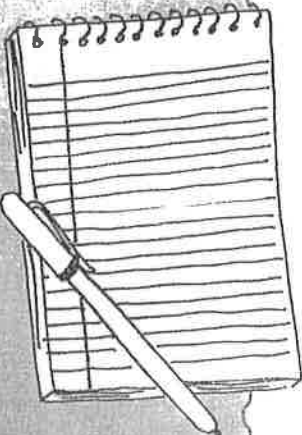
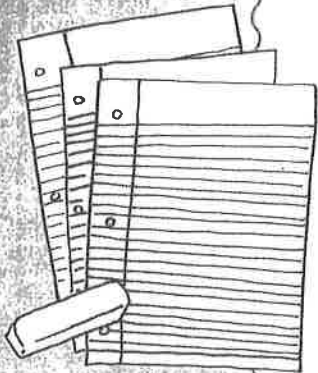
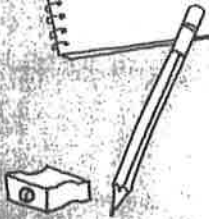
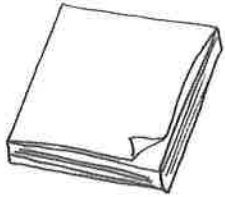
A personal narrative is a way to describe an experience so that others feel as if they were there. Writers do this by using sensory details—what they saw, heard, touched, smelled, and tasted—and by including important events, characters, and dialogue. Writers explain what happened and also tell what they were thinking at the time and how they felt.

Who is the audience for a personal narrative?

Everyone is! People record their experiences in diaries and journals, and share them in letters and e-mails.

How do you read a personal narrative?

1. The title will likely give you a clue about the experience you will be reading about.
2. Pay close attention to the sequence of events.
3. Ask yourself: *Did this event happen to the person, or did the person make it happen? How did this event affect the person's life?*
4. Ask yourself: *Is the author simply writing to entertain, or is there something that I can learn?*





Personal Narrative

Includes specific details about the time, place, and people involved

Focuses on one event in the author's life

Has dialogue

May be a few paragraphs or several pages in length

Tells the author's thoughts and feelings as well as the actual events

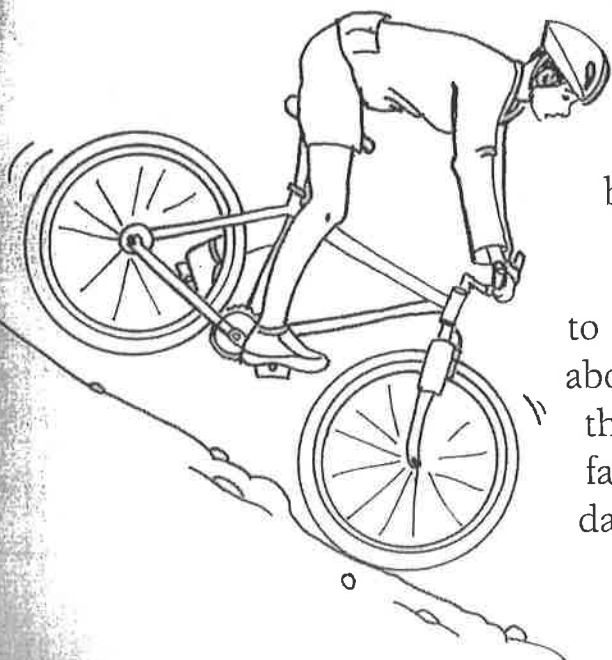
Bike Trip

When I was seven years old, I got my first bike with hand brakes. I was so thrilled that I wanted to go for a ride with my mom and my brother, Matthew. It was a beautiful Sunday morning in June. The sun was bright and there were no clouds in the sky. We were having a wonderful time riding together until we came to a **steep** hill.

At first I was fine, but as I gained speed I began to panic. I tried to use my pedals to brake. I completely forgot that I needed to use the hand brakes! The bike went faster and faster and began to vibrate and veer from side to side. I was totally out of control! At the bottom of the hill, I fell hard and hit my chin on the sidewalk. For a moment, time seemed to stand still. Blood was gushing out of a big hole in my chin. I was moaning in pain. "Am I going to die?" I asked. "No," my mom said, "but we need to get you to a doctor."

We threw the bikes into the trunk of a taxi and headed to the doctor's office. The doctor examined my chin and said, "You'll be fine, but you need two layers of stitches." Two layers of stitches! I felt like jumping out of the chair and running away. But I sat there bravely and gripped the chair as she injected my chin with a painkiller. My mom cried as the doctor stitched, but I didn't because the stitches didn't really hurt.

When the doctor was done, we went to a frozen yogurt store. I promptly forgot about my chin. Instead I concentrated on the cold, smooth, delicious treat and my family. It had been an extremely emotional day for all of us.



Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.

1. What clues tell you that the storyteller was a child when this story happened?

2. What does **steep** mean in the first paragraph?

3. What two events happen that cause the storyteller pain?

4. What is the effect of the storyteller going too fast down the hill?

5. What is this passage mainly about?

6. The storyteller was riding bikes with two other people. Who are they? Why is it important to mention them in the story?

7. What is the author's purpose for telling this story? To entertain? Inform? Persuade?

8. Do you think the storyteller is afraid of doctors now? What clues in the text help you find the answer?

Snowball

I glanced down the steep, snow-covered hill. My stomach lunged and I forgot why I wanted to do this. Had I known what was about to happen, I would've turned back.



My whole body was shaking as snow fluttered into my hair. All the layers of clothing my mom made me put on weren't keeping me warm. It had been a pain to put on the long underwear, heavy snow pants, then the two pairs of socks, the snow boots, coat, mittens, and hat. I'm from a part of Texas where it might snow once a year. Now that we were on a family vacation in Colorado, I stepped up to the inner tube and the adventure of a lifetime.

The snow fell harder now. My cheeks, which were the only part of my body not covered, stung from the cold. I shook the ice off of my hands and readied the inner tube. My mom waved at me to hurry. The line behind me was getting longer. I took a few gulps of air. My breath left my mouth like steam from a kettle. I shivered as the icy wind cut through me, and then I jumped on the inner tube.

As I went down the hill, trees passed by me faster and faster. The wind slapped my face and snow flew into my eyes. By the time I was halfway down the hill, everything was a blur. There was so much snow flying into my eyes. I brushed my eyes just in time to see something big and brown on the ground ahead. There was no time to steer away from the rock.

Bam! I flew from the tube and my body rolled like a **gigantic** snowball. I wasn't hurt, but I was a little shook up. Next time I'll pay better attention!

Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.

1. What does the bold word **gigantic** mean in the story?

2. In what state does the story take place?

3. Do we know the name or gender of the storyteller?

4. In the first paragraph, why is the storyteller having a funny feeling in the stomach or belly?

5. Why were the storyteller's cheeks so cold?

6. Why can't the storyteller see the rock?

7. What does the storyteller mean in the last paragraph by the phrase "I was a little shook up"?

8. What lesson does the storyteller learn at the end?
