

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

3RD
Grade

Let's write about
real-life experiences!

Emotions

Feelings

How

Who

What

When

Where



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What's a Personal Narrative?



Personal narratives are stories about real-life experiences. These stories ZOOM IN on a moment in time and tell what really happened to the author. While other narratives can be make believe or fantasy stories, personal narratives are non-fiction stories, based on facts and real events from the author's life...YOUR life!



Now, What Seems to be the Problem?



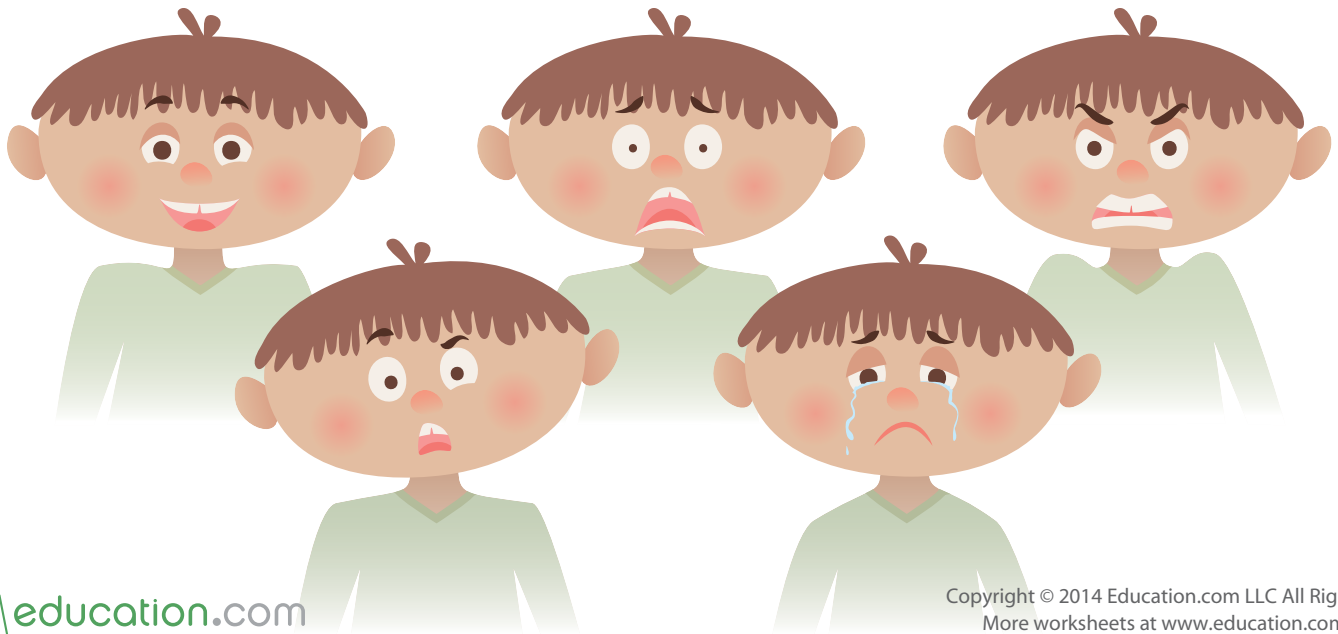
Just like fictional stories, personal narratives involve some kind of a problem, or conflict. Personal narratives are filled with feelings and emotions that often change throughout the story.

Problems could relate to:

a disagreement you had with someone
an obstacle you faced
the challenge of learning something new
getting through a tough time in your life
something unexpected happened

Feelings and Emotions:

serious	happy	scared	furious	sad	annoyed
frustrated	thrilled	excited	hurt	unwelcome	
anxious	determined	confused	surprised		
confident	shocked	warm	safe	inspired	



Use the space below to brainstorm some ideas from your own life. Try to think of an instance where you experienced each type of problem described above and describe it below. Then write two or three feelings or emotions you felt during each experience. You can use the ideas from the box to help you, or come up with your own.

1. Once, I had a disagreement with _____ about

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

2. An obstacle I had to overcome was _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

3. Even though it was really challenging, I finally learned how to _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

4. I once had an unexpected _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

5. I went through a tough time in my life when _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

6. Once, I helped my _____ deal with _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

7. I was really surprised when _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

8. I once failed at _____ but then learned _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

9. There was a time when I had to learn _____

Feeling _____ Feeling _____ Feeling _____

Title: _____

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“And You Can Quote Me on That!”



Writing Dialogue:

Writers use quotation marks to write dialogue, or a conversation between two or more people. Dialogue draws the reader deeper into your story and brings it to life!

How to Write Dialogue Using Quotation Marks

Writers use quotation marks and punctuation to show what a speaker says. The quotation marks signal the speaker's exact words.

Example:

Mike said, “I sent you a birthday card! Did you get it?”

“Not yet. The mail doesn't get delivered on Sundays. Hopefully, I'll receive it tomorrow,” answered Teenie.

Note:

Notice that the quotation marks go outside the exact words that are spoken, as well as outside the end punctuation.



Practice 1:

Read the conversation between Mike and Teenie below. Put quotation marks before and after the exact words that Mike and Teenie said.

Mike said, Oh, that's too bad! I was hoping you would get it in time for your birthday party today.

That's okay, Mike. It's the thought that counts, Teenie replied, smiling.

Practice 2:

Read the speech balloons below and then write what Mike and Teenie said next, using quotation marks correctly.

Yes, but your present was also in the envelope!



Oh! Well, don't worry about it, Mickey. Can you tell me what the gift is?



Mike exclaimed, _____

Teenie said, _____

Practice 3:

Later that day, after Teenie's birthday party, Mike and Teenie are talking. This time, you decide what they say. Make sure to use quotation marks correctly.

Mike said, _____

Teenie answered, _____

Mike said, _____



Stories That Really PACK a PUNCH!



Every GREAT writer uses STRONG verbs and adjectives. Make your writing POWERFUL with strong verbs and adjectives.

To practice brainstorming for strong verbs and adjectives, choose words to describe a superhero. Remember, superheroes are SUPER because they rescue people and animals from dangerous situations.

Superhero's name: _____

List 5-8 adjectives that describe him or her. Remember, superheroes are exciting! Use interesting, unique adjectives.

Superheroes lead lives full of action and adventure! List 5-8 verbs that describe what your superhero does:

You don't have to be a superhero to be a hero to someone! Everyday heroes are people who go out of their way to help others in need. Think about a time when you did something heroic. Perhaps you saw a teacher who needed help carrying heavy books and swooped in to help her. Maybe you helped your parents rescue an injured animal. Perhaps you found something valuable and did everything you could to find its rightful owner.

Brief description of the situation:

Now, brainstorm a list of 6-10 strong adjectives that describe you and the other people or animals involved in the situation. Think about how you felt during the situation, about the physical characteristics and facial expressions of people there, and about the scene where the situation took place. List adjectives that specifically describe the nouns in your heroic situation:

Next, make a list of 6-10 strong verbs that describe the actions of those involved. Remember, be specific!

TIME TO WRITE

Using the **STRONG** adjectives and verbs from the previous page, write a paragraph about your heroic act. Be sure to include details about **WHO**, **WHAT**, **WHERE**, **WHEN**, and **HOW** in your story. Also, include at least two examples of dialogue to make the story come alive for your reader.

Title: _____

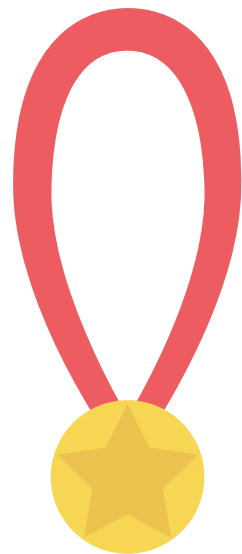
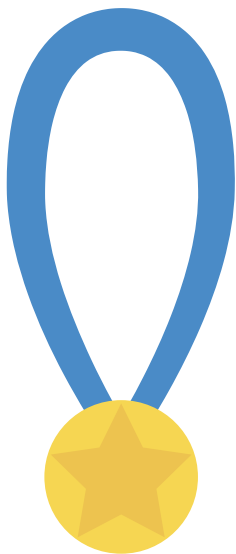
A cartoon squirrel superhero character is positioned on the right side of the page. The squirrel has brown fur, large white eyes with black pupils, and a small red nose. It is wearing a blue mask with white eye cutouts and a blue cape. The squirrel is standing on its hind legs, with its left arm raised and its right hand on its hip. The background of the page is white with horizontal lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. The squirrel character is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



A Special Moment



While personal narratives may seem to focus mainly on problems, they actually are really about the special moments that stay in our memories after a problem has been resolved. Getting past an unexpected challenge or the joy that comes from helping someone else are so special BECAUSE of what you had to do to accomplish your goal, unravel a mystery, or resolve a problem with a friend. This time, think about a memorable moment of joy in your life, and tell the story that led to that special moment.



Complete the Story Map below.

Problem or Conflict: _____

Who? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

Events

Beginning (How did the experience begin?): _____

Middle Event 1: _____

Middle Event 2: _____

Middle Event 3 (How was the problem solved?): _____

Ending (What happened after the problem was solved? Why was this experience memorable and special?): _____



TIME TO WRITE

Using your Story Map about a special moment in your life, write your story below. Remember to share your thoughts and feelings as you move through the details of the experience from beginning to end, including dialogue, strong verbs and interesting adjectives. End the story with your personal reaction and opinion about why this experience was special and memorable. Make your personal narrative extra special by sharing it with someone else when you are finished!

Title: _____

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Great job!

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