

# PERSONAL NARRATIVE

3<sup>RD</sup>  
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?



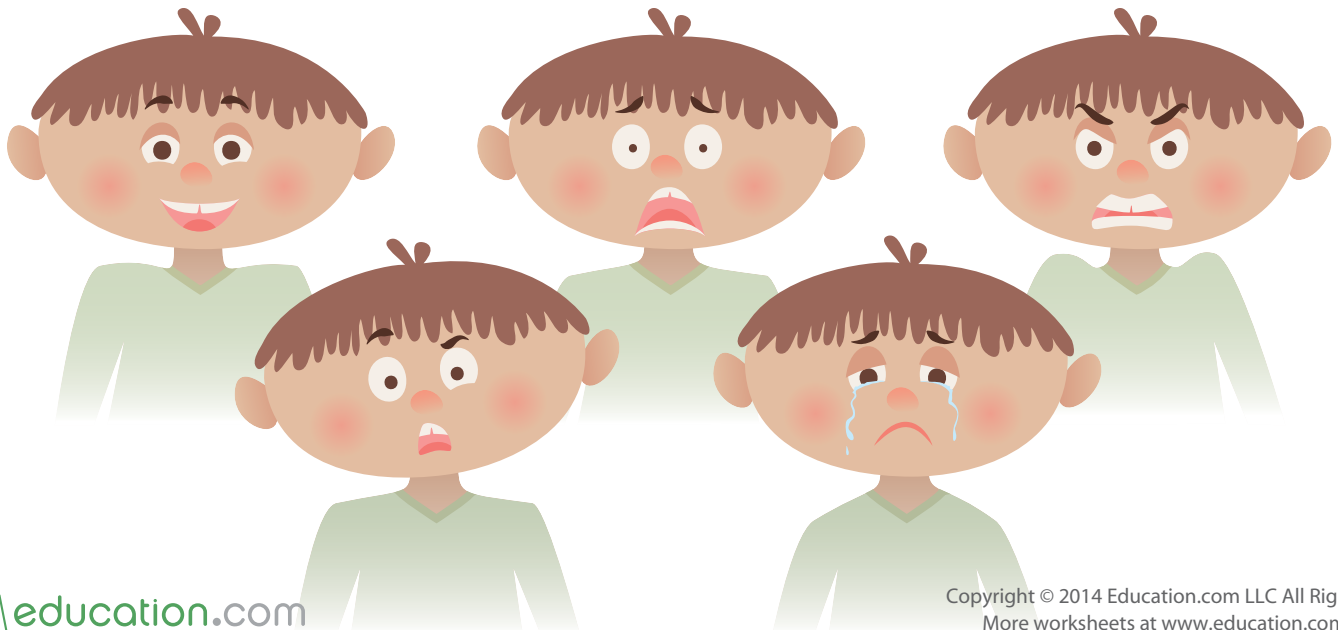
Just like fictional stories, personal narratives involve some kind of a problem, or conflict. Personal narratives are filled with feelings and emotions that often change throughout the story.

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

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

2. An obstacle I had to overcome was \_\_\_\_\_

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

4. I once had an unexpected \_\_\_\_\_

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

6. Once, I helped my \_\_\_\_\_ deal with \_\_\_\_\_

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

7. I was really surprised when \_\_\_\_\_

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

8. I once failed at \_\_\_\_\_ but then learned \_\_\_\_\_

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

9. There was a time when I had to learn \_\_\_\_\_

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Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

# TIME TO WRITE



Using the Story Map from the previous page, write your personal narrative from beginning to end. Begin your story in the moment that the experience began in your life, imagining you are looking at the experience through a microscope and describing every detail as it happened. Describe the problem, action, and the feelings you had from moment to moment, so your readers can create a movie of your experience in their minds as they read your narrative. Describe what you were thinking about during the experience and how the experience ended.

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.

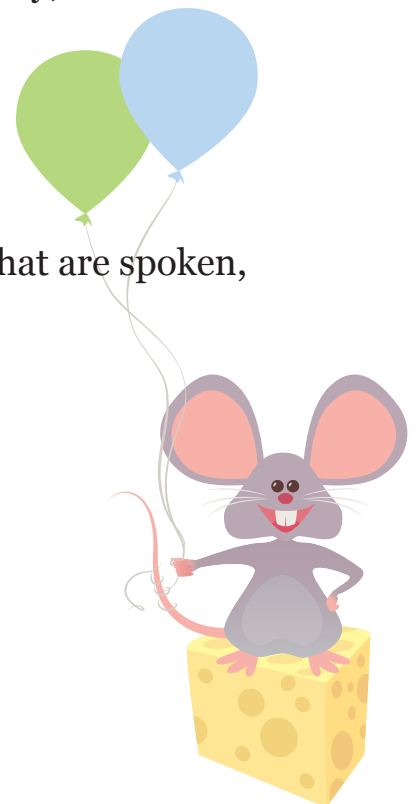
### Example:

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:

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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:

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

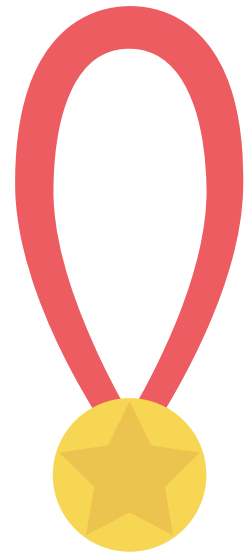
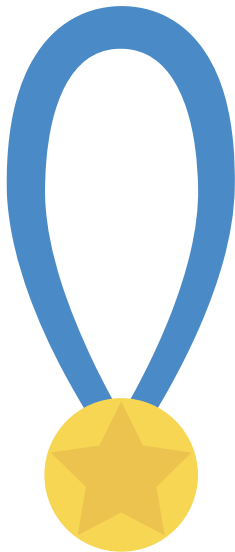
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# A Special Moment



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?): \_\_\_\_\_

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Middle Event 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Middle Event 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Great job!

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