Name: Andrew Martin Period: 2B

Narrative Writing W*hat Makes a Good Story*

For your remote activity, you will use the qualities of a good narrative that we brainstormed as a class and apply them to stories I have curated for you.

**Step One: R**

**ev**

**iew the Qualities**

Qu

alit

ies of a Good Narrati

ve

–

According

to Mrs. Halvorson

’s Runnin

g Start S

tudents

A

Good Narrative Has:

✓

An engaging title

✓

An engaging hook/lead

✓

Figurative language/sensory det

ails

✓

Det

ails that show a

s opposed to tell

✓

Character develo

pment

✓

A lesson learned or quality re

vealed

✓

An inviting

,

engaging

,

and

confident

voice

unique to the writer

✓

A good story

✓

A clear tone

**Step Two: Listen to the stories I have curated for you**. These are found on our PSL site. So far, your examples of a good narrative have come from college essays. These stories are not college essays, but they are examples of storytelling.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Story Title | Summary (brief 1-2 sentences) | The best moment, part, phrase of this story and why. | What personality trait did the story highlight in its storyteller? How do you know? |
| For the love of a cinnamon roll | Her Aunt Honey was living in a nursing home for a few months because she had broken her hip. She hadn’t been eating well so the nurses put her on a diet. When Anne comes and visits her, Honey convinces Anne to buy her a Cinnamon Roll from the vending machine. She is then caught and immediately confesses. | The best part is when Honey makes her get something for herself from the vending machine because when she panics it shows how much she likes following the rules. | The story highlighted her honesty and kindness. At the end, when she is called out for bringing her Aunt to the vending machine, she immediately gives in and confesses. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Story Title | Summary (brief 1-2 sentences) | The best moment, part, phrase of this story and why. | What personality trait did the story highlight in its storyteller? How do you know? |
| A 12-year-old app developer | Thomas has been programming in multiple languages and has programmed multiple IOS apps. He has also created his own App club at school. | The best moment was when he created his own app club that takes requests from teachers to create useful apps. This shows his resourcefulness and his intelligence. | He highlighted his intelligence and helpfulness. He first taught himself how to program apps, then used his knowledge to teach other kids and to create a club in his school to help his district’s teachers make better use of technology. |
| Pastels and Crayons | She is drawing herself for a first grade self-portrait and having learned how to properly color the summer before, it comes out perfectly. She colored her face in the same color as her friend group with oil pastels, but her teacher said that it was the wrong color for her face because she was middle-eastern. She colors over her face in brown crayon which doesn’t mix with the oil. She doesn’t understand why she can’t be peach like her friends. Then, when she’s in sixth grade, she gets asked what race she was and responds with brown. The kid who asked then said that brown wasn’t a race, but she stood up for herself and said she was brown. | The best part was the end when she tells the audience that she is brown, and that she is proud of who she is. | This story highlights the author’s identity. Her story shows how she started by taking on the identity of her friends, then being confused about her identity, then fully understanding and accepting her own unique identity. |
| The Meaning of a Bean | Mercy was delivered premature by an anemic mother and cared for by a doctor. Meeting the doctor that carried her made her want to be a doctor. There was only one issue, which was that she got sick when she saw sick people. She then had to announce to her mother that she would not be a doctor, but a nutritionist. Her mother acted like she had failed her. She then moved to the US to become a nutritionist, then looked for a job in Kenya. Her first job was to prove that a bean produced in a lab with more iron would resolve Anemia. However, the study had already failed the first time. She was doing the study when one day, one of the girls mentioned that her period had resumed, a signal that the anemia had been resolved. Her mother then said that she was proud of her. | The best part was when she overheard the woman talking about her period because in that moment, she knew that the study was going to work. | This story highlights the author’s need for acceptance. In the beginning, she was told by her mother that she was going to do great things. In the middle, she was greatly disappointed because her mother seemed ashamed of her. Then, near the end, she gained praise from her mother and felt very relieved. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Story Title | Summary (brief 1-2 sentences) | The moment, part, phrase of this story and why. | What personality trait did the story highlight in its storyteller? How do you know? |
| Looks aren’t everything. Believe me, I’m a model. | She talks about what it is like to be a model from a model’s perspective. She then talks about all the great people that help her look her best while she’s modeling. She then talks about how she’s constantly insecure. | The best part is when she finally admits that there is so much pressure on her to be perfect that it has caused her to become insecure. During this part she fully opened up and admitted what she really thought about modeling. | Her caring nature came through in this story. She mentioned, as a model, how most of the modeling community is white and how other races aren’t hired as much. This shows that she really cares about the modeling industry and those that work in it. |

**Step Three: Reflection. Please answer the following questions.**

1. Which of the five stories is the most memorable? Explain what made it so.

I think that “The meaning of a bean” was the most memorable because of the ups and downs of the emotions in it. Merci goes from being adored by her mother to her mother thinking she could be better to full acceptance by her mother.

1. Which story can use the most improvement? Why?

“Looks aren’t everything. Believe me, I’m a model” needed the most work as a story because it was mostly a pro-con list of becoming a model, followed by her truly opening up to how anxious she really is.

1. What can you take from this activity and apply to your narrative essay writing experience?

I could allow my narrative’s emotions to flow back and forth to make it more dramatic.