

# 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?



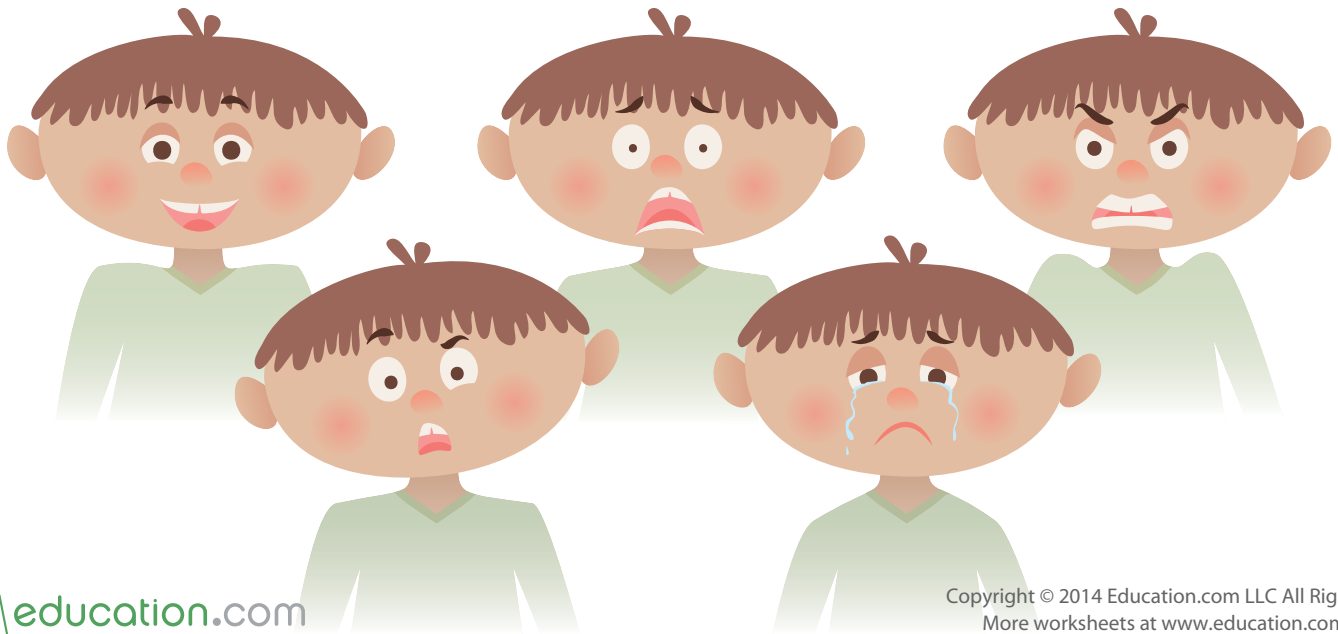
Just like fictional stories, personal narratives involve some kind of a problem, or conflict. Personal narratives are filled with feelings and emotions that often change throughout the story.

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# “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.

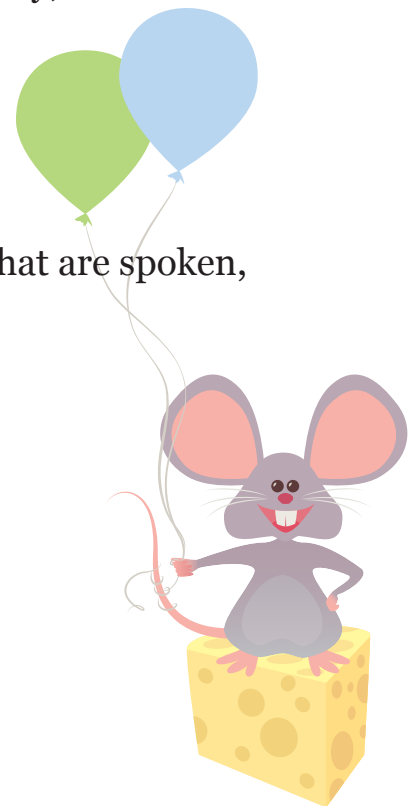
### Example:

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.

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

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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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Title: \_\_\_\_\_

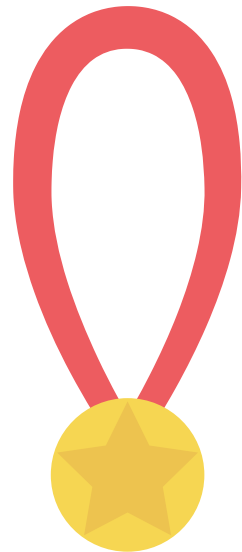
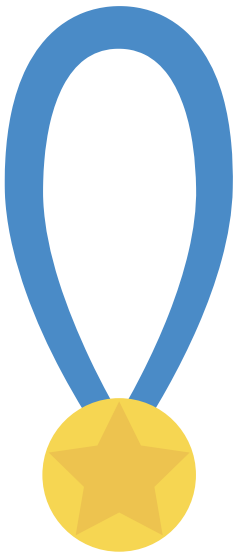
Handwriting practice lines (18 lines) and a cartoon squirrel character.



# 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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# 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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