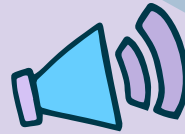
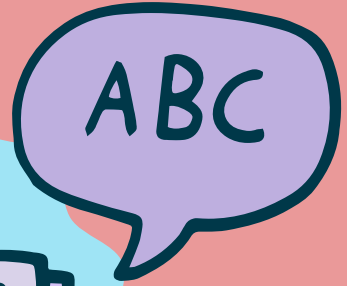
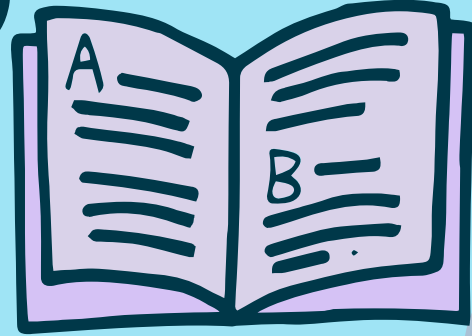
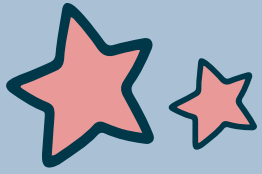


Lesson 1: Introduction to Personal Narratives

Unit 1





Our Learning Goals

- ➡ I can write a paragraph about a memory of school.
- ➡ I can define personal narrative.
- ➡ I can infer and gather information from six-word memories.
- ➡ I can write a six-word memory based on my paragraph.

01

Writing About It



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1.1

ACTIVITY PAGE

A Memory Paragraph

In this activity you will write a paragraph describing a school memory. It could be exciting, funny, scary, or surprising, but it must be true.

1. Start by brainstorming some school memories on the following lines. Try to write at least five different ideas. Then circle the one you want to write about.

2. What makes a good paragraph?

Writers often organize good paragraphs using a common set of guidelines. First, writers include a topic sentence to introduce the topic or main idea of the paragraph. The topic sentence tells what the paragraph will be about. Next, writers include supporting sentences to explain the topic or main idea. Writers usually include at least three to five sentences to give the reader supporting details and facts about the topic or main idea. Including interesting facts and details helps make the paragraph informative and interesting to read. It is important that the sentences stick to the topic. Finally, writers end the paragraph with a concluding sentence, or their final thought about the topic or main idea. Using these guidelines can be helpful to writing a clear and informative paragraph.

3. Write a paragraph that includes:

- A. Topic Sentence: Start with a sentence introducing the memory.
- B. Supporting Sentences: Describe what happened, how you felt, how people reacted, and any other interesting details you remember.
- C. Concluding Sentence: End your paragraph by explaining why the memory is important.

Do your best with spelling and punctuation—it is OK if you need to guess. This is a rough draft, and the most important thing is to write an interesting, true story.

Quality Paragraphs



- A. Topic Sentence
- B. Supporting Sentence
- C. Concluding Sentence

Let's Try Together

1

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Details (x3):

Concluding Sentence:

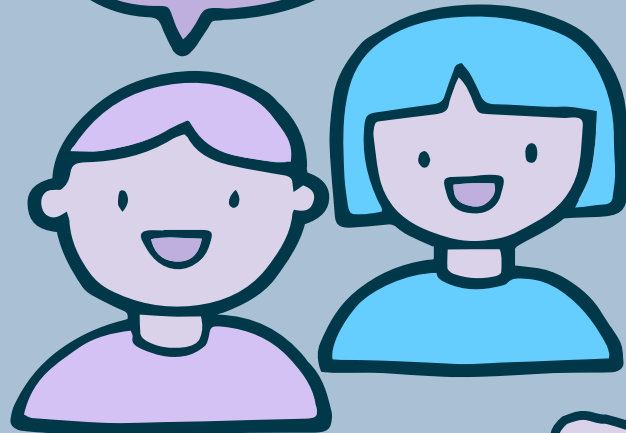
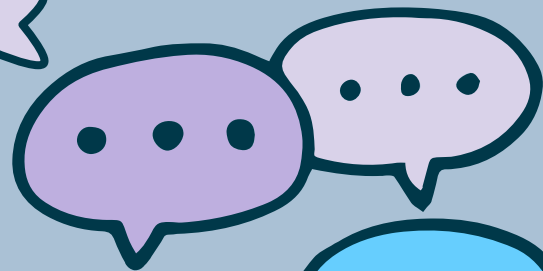
1.1
CONTINUED

DATE: _____

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02

Speaking and Listening

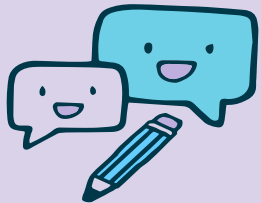


Personal Narrative

💡 What do you think of when you hear the word *personal*?

💡 What do you think of when you hear the word *narrative*?

💡 How might you combine these ideas to define *personal narrative*?



1.2

ACTIVITY PAGE

Defining *Personal Narratives*

Write the definition of *Personal Narrative* in the space below.

List three things that make an essay a personal narrative:

1.

2.

3.



Vocabulary



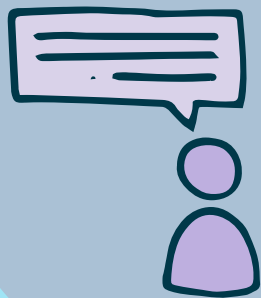
personal narrative

fiction

nonfiction

first person

Six word memories
challenge writers to share
true stories, just like your
own memory but using only
a few words.



Six Word Memories

NAME: _____

1.3

ACTIVITY PAGE

DATE: _____

Reading Six-Word Memories

The “six-word memory” challenges writers to share a true story, just like your paragraph from Activity 1.1, but using very few words. With only six words, narrators must be very careful to pick words that do a lot of work.

Read the first two memories and discuss them with your class and teacher.

Then read the remaining memories. List all the details you can figure out or infer from the six words the author has chosen. Be careful only to include inferences you can support with the text. Consider: where and when does the story take place? How does the narrator feel? Explain how you figured it out.

1. Snow angels, loving family, hot chocolate.

2. Snow falling, teeth chattering, keep warm.

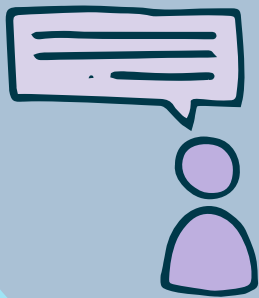
3. Swallowed tooth. Morning, dollar on stomach.

4. High swings. Chain slacks. Bloodied knees.

➡ What do you think the narrator is showing or telling?

➡ What pictures do you have in your mind when reading the memory?

➡ Why do you think the narrator chose to tell this memory?



Six Word Memories

5. Wheels spin. Pedals slip. Hello gravel.

6. Each year, more pie. Happy holiday.

7. Moon, lake, camp friends sharing secrets.

8. Award ceremony. Winter boots. Shame. Shame.

9. My dog. Tunneling through snow mountains.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1.4

ACTIVITY PAGE

Writing Six-Word Memories

Flip back to Activity Page 1.1 and circle the most important words in the paragraph. When choosing your words, think about what is most important in the memory. Also think about what words are most specific, or create the most immediate and interesting picture in your head. There may be a few more than six, but no more than ten. Write them below:

Now choose the six words from that list that can make a six-word memory that makes sense.

Six-word memory:

1. What facts, events, and details did you include from your longer paragraph?

2. Why did you choose to include these facts, events, and details?

3. What did you leave out? Why did you choose to leave it out?

4. What do you think a reader will be able to infer from your six-word memory?
