

Unit 1

Personal

Narratives

Lesson 3: Cause and Effect



Vocabulary

Core Vocabulary

anticipation, n. expectation, a feeling of looking forward to something

unique, adj. one of a kind

implications, n. suggestions

sermon, n. a serious speech on a moral issue, often given in church

pulpit, n. a platform in church from which the minister speaks

feminist, n. someone in favor of equal rights for women

Literary Vocabulary

structure, n. the basic way a story or essay is organized

Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family

➤ **By: Condoleezza Rice**



Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family

Reader pages 7-10

Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family

Chapter One

by Condoleezza Rice

Condoleezza Rice is a professor and scholar of political science at Stanford University. She has also served in government. She was the first female National Security Advisor from 2001–2005, and the first female African-American Secretary of State from 2005–2009. This excerpt is from the very beginning of her memoir Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family.

By all accounts, my parents approached the time of my birth with great **anticipation**. My father was certain that I'd be a boy and had worked out a deal with my mother: if the baby was a girl, she would name her, but a boy would be named John.

Mother started thinking about names for her daughter. She wanted a name that would be **unique** and musical. Looking to Italian musical terms for inspiration, she at first settled on



Andantino. But realizing that it translated as “moving slowly,” she decided that she didn’t like the **implications** of that name. Allegro was worse because it translated as “fast,” and no mother in 1954 wanted her daughter to be thought of as “fast.” Finally she found the musical terms *con dolce* and *con dolcezza*, meaning “with sweetness.” Deciding that an English speaker would never recognize the hard c, saying “dolci” instead of “dolche,” my mother doctored the term. She settled on Condoleezza.

Meanwhile, my father prepared for John’s birth. He bought a football and several other pieces of sports equipment. John was going to be an all-American running back or perhaps a linebacker.

My mother thought she felt labor pains on Friday night, November 12, and was rushed to the doctor. Dr. Plump, the black pediatrician who delivered most of the black babies in town, explained that it was probably just anxiety. He decided nonetheless to put Mother in the hospital, where she could rest comfortably.

The public hospitals were completely segregated in Birmingham, with the Negro wards—no private rooms were available—in the basement. There wasn’t much effort to separate maternity cases from patients with any other kind of illness, and by all accounts the accommodations were pretty grim. As a result, mothers who could get in preferred to birth their babies at Holy Family, the Catholic



hospital that segregated white and Negro patients but at least had something of a maternity floor and private rooms. Mother checked into Holy Family that night.

Nothing happened on Saturday or early Sunday morning. Dr. Plump told my father to go ahead and deliver his **sermon** at the eleven o'clock church service. "This baby isn't going to be born for quite a while," he said.

He was wrong. When my father came out of the **pulpit** at noon on November 14, his mother was waiting for him in the church office.

"Johnny, it's a girl!"

Daddy was floored. "A girl?" he asked. "How could it be a girl?"

He rushed to the hospital to see the new baby. Daddy told me that the first time he saw me in the nursery, the other babies were just lying still, but I was trying to raise myself up. Now, I think it's doubtful that an hours-old baby was strong enough to do this. But my father insisted this story was true. In any case, he said that his heart melted at the sight of his baby girl. From that day on he was a "**feminist**"—there was nothing that his little girl couldn't do, including learning to love football.



Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family

➤ **What is a character trait?**



Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family

- **What is a character trait?**
 - **An adjective used to describe someone's personality**



Extraordinary, Ordinary People:

A Memoir of Family

- **What are some character traits you'd use to describe the *mother* in Condoleezza Rice's personal narrative?**
- **What are some character traits you'd use to describe the *father* in Condoleezza Rice's personal narrative?**



Cause and Effect

- **There are many ways to organize or *structure* a story or essay.**
- **Chronologically - the order events happen**
- **Cause and Effect - the relationship between two events when the first event *causes* the second event to happen**



Cause and Effect

- **Think back to “A Good Lie”. What are some causes and effects in that narrative?**



Cause and Effect - "A Good Lie"

Cause: Narrator wets the bed.

Effect: Lily lies about also wetting the bed.

Cause: Lily lies to protect the narrator.

Effect: _____

Cause: _____

Effect: Narrator is inspired to try to be a kinder, more generous friend.



Cause and Effect - “Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family”

- In a cause and effect structured piece of writing, the cause is usually the main event.
- What is the main event in Condoleezza Rice’s essay?



Cause and Effect - “Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family”

- In a cause and effect structured piece of writing, the cause is usually the main event.
- What is the main event in Condoleezza Rice's essay?
 - The birth of the author



Cause and Effect

Activity 3.1

Cause	Effect

Writing - Brainstorming

Activity 3.2

- **Condoleezza Rice's birth made her father a feminist who believed that his daughter could do anything.**
- **Using cause and effect structure, you will write a paragraph describing how someone changed you.**
- **Think about 4 different people who have changed you. Describe how they changed you in the second column.**



Writing - Brainstorming

Activity 3.2

- **A Coach - taught you a sport concept**
- **Teacher - taught you a skill**
- **Friend - showed you how to be kind or brave**
- **Parent - taught you something you thought was hard**



Cause and Effect Paragraph

Activity 3.3

Cause and Effect Paragraph Sentence Frames

I used to think _____

but _____ changed my mind. _____

One time, _____

Also, _____

Now I _____!