

NARRATIVE WRITING

Narrative writing tells a story. Fictional narrative writing has a plot, a setting (where and when the story happens), and characters who have motives (reasons) for what they do. Good narrative writing is more than a list of random events. It has a problem to be solved or a challenge to be overcome. There is a point to the story.

Nonfictional narrative writing is often used to recount a person's life story, important historical events, or news stories. This is really a combination of narrative and expository writing, since its purpose is both to tell a story and to provide important facts and details.

K – 3rd Grade

Narrative writing at the primary level can be introduced by pointing out the elements of narrative writing in well-written literature books. Talk about the characters, settings, problems, solutions, plots and themes as you read aloud to your children.

The next stage is picture drawing. Have children draw a picture, then describe who is in the picture and what is happening. This can lead to drawing multiple part stories that show the beginning, middle events and the ending to the story. Young children enjoy creating "cartoon-style" stories in which they write brief sentences to accompany their drawings.

Using the format of literature books is another method of getting started in narrative writing. Children can write their own version of familiar favorites like "Hansel and Gretel" or "Cinderella". This task can be made even easier by having children just write a new ending for an old favorite story.

At the primary level, the main consideration is developing the child's confidence to share their stories and ideas using a comfortable format, whether dictating a story, drawing a picture, or writing on their own.

4th – 8th Grade

Students will definitely benefit from some prewriting planning. The parent/teacher can help clarify the student's thinking beforehand by asking a few questions about the plot, setting, etc. What is the point of the piece? What will happen? What details need to be clear so that the reader doesn't become confused? Addressing these in the prewriting stage will head off many problems when it is time to write. Without planning, students often rush into their story without developing a thoughtful, logical sequence of events.

Some writing activities might include:

- Compose and write an original myth or legend
- Write an original short story
- Expand a known story or rewrite a story's ending to reflect a change in plot
- Use original dialogue in a story (conversation)
- Write an original ballad
- Write a series of log or journal entries for a fictional character that relate a story or interesting episode in their life

Additional Support

Our adopted textbooks provide varying levels of support for writing. Refer to your specific text for further information.

“Generic” writing packets can be found on our webpage. These contain more information and details for both parent-teachers and students. <http://hcs.hickmanschools.org/writing-packets.html>

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