BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

PERSONAL NARRATIVES

Memorable Misadventures



by Cameron Swain, Blake Bischler, Katie Urban, and Jacob Howie

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Personal Narratives
Level: J/18*

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

For teachers' inspection ONLY

LITERARY ANALYSIS
- Respond to and interpret text
- Make text-to-text connections
- Analyze the genre

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Evaluate fact and opinion

Word Study
- Specific adjectives

Tier Two Vocabulary
(see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Writer's voice

Writer's Craft
- How to write a personal narrative

THEME CONNECTIONS
- All About Me

*The reading level assigned to this text is based on the genre examples only. "Focus on the Genre," "Reread," and "Writer's Craft" features were not leveled. These sections are intended for read-aloud or shared reading.

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The Readers' & Writers' Genre Workshop series includes eleven fiction and nonfiction genres. There are two titles with multiple stories for each genre.

How to use this book

1. Learn about the genre by reading pages 2–3. Get background information about the authors on pages 4–5.
2. Read the personal narratives for enjoyment.
3. Reread the narratives and answer the questions on pages 13 and 21.
4. Reread the last narrative. Pay attention to the comments in the margins. See how an author writes a personal narrative.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own personal narrative.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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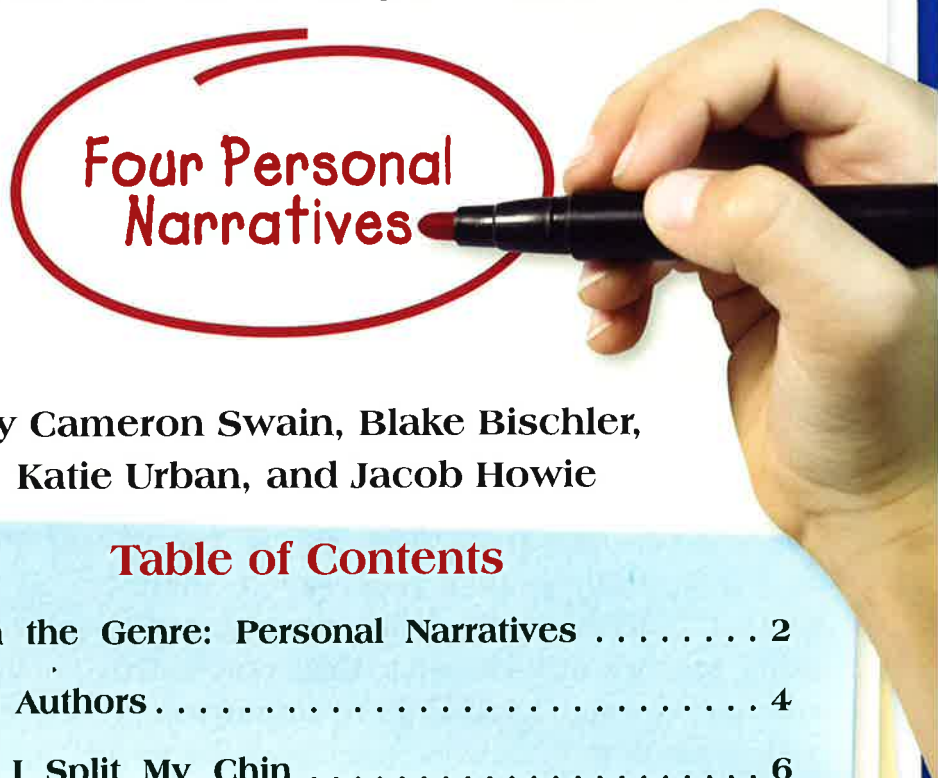
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Memorable Misadventures

Four Personal Narratives



by Cameron Swain, Blake Bischler, Katie Urban, and Jacob Howie

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Make Connections Across Texts . . . Inside Back Cover

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Personal Narratives



What is a personal narrative?

A personal narrative is a nonfiction text that recreates an experience from the author's life. A personal narrative has a strong point of view, usually in the first person. It also communicates a distinct mood, or overall feeling. Most personal narratives are about something "big" in the author's life, such as a proud or sad moment, a trip or adventure, or an event that changed attitudes or actions.

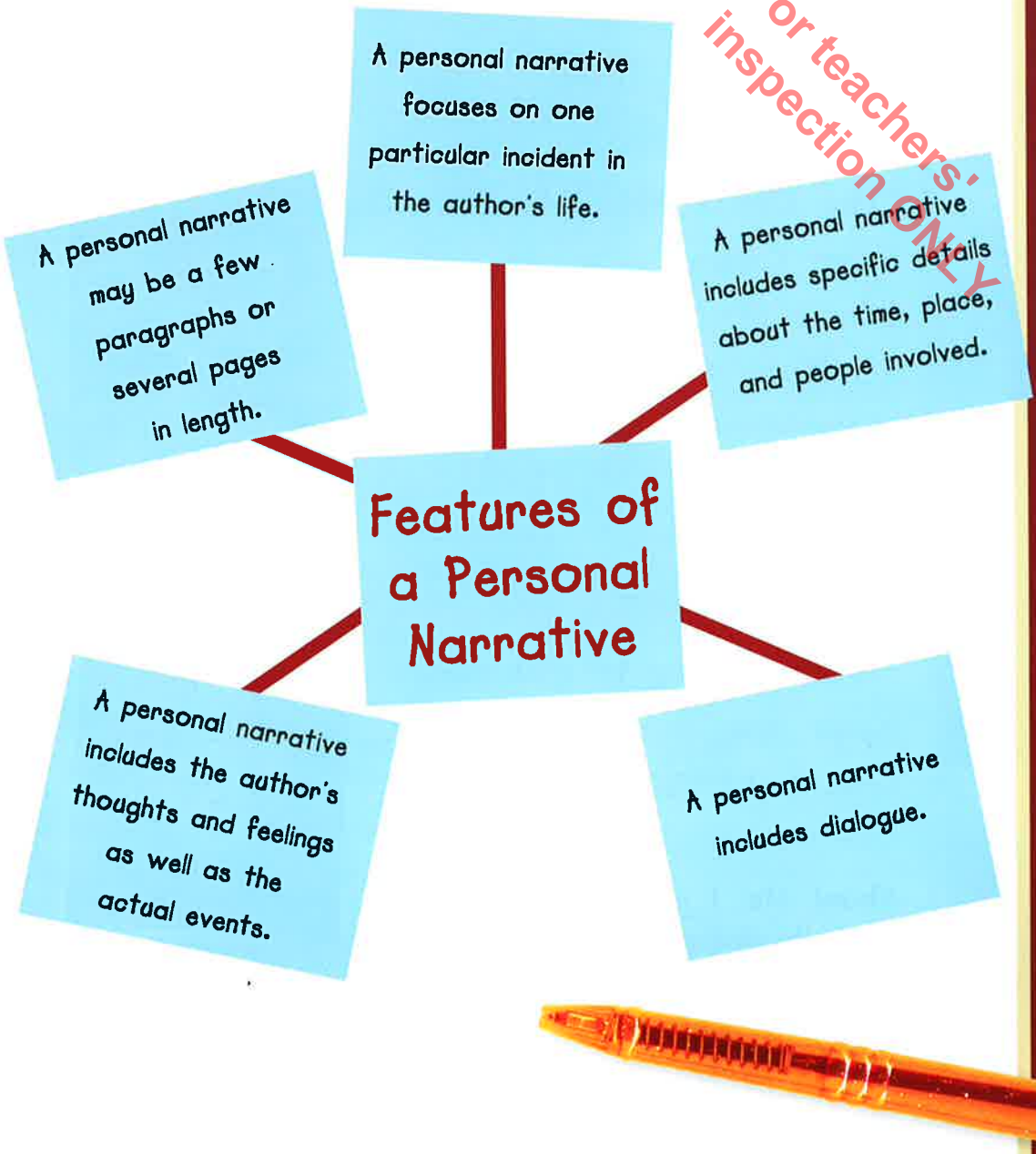
What is the purpose of a personal narrative?

A personal narrative is a way to describe an experience so that others feel like they were there. Writers do this by using sensory details—what they saw, heard, touched, smelled, and tasted—and by including important events, characters, and dialogue. Writers explain what happened and also tell what they were thinking at the time and how they felt.

How do you read a personal narrative?

The title will likely give you a clue about the experience that the author will describe. As you read, pay close attention to the sequence of events. Ask yourself: *Did this event happen to the person, or did the person make it happen? How did this event affect the person's life? Is the author simply writing to entertain, or is there something that I can learn from his or her experience?*

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Who writes personal narratives?

Everyone does! People record their experiences in diaries and journals, and share them in letters and e-mails. These informal writing opportunities provide valuable practice in selecting just the right details to make the experience come alive for others.

Meet the Authors

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"The Day I Split My Chin"



Name: Cameron "Cammie" Swain

School: Trinity School

New York, New York

About Me: I like to sing, act, and write. I also like to play volleyball and tennis.

"Inner Tubing in Colorado"



Name: Blake Bischler

School: Old Union Elementary

Southlake, Texas

About Me: I play basketball, football, and golf. When I need a break, I play with my puppy, Chloe.

"Rodeo Clown"



Name: Katie Urban

School: Wellington Christian Academy

Wellington, Kansas

About Me: I live on a farm. I love to read romance, mystery, and history books.

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Tools Writers Use

Writer's Voice

When your friends call you on the phone, can you recognize their voices? Each voice is distinctive, just like each friend's personality. Writer's voice is no different. Everyone's writing is different from everyone else's. Every writer chooses certain topics, selects certain words, includes certain details, and uses a certain style and mood that makes his or her writing as unique as a fingerprint. Good writers use their voices to add feeling to their writing. Good writers also adapt, or change, their voices for different audiences and purposes. For example, you would use a different voice to write an e-mail to your cousin inviting him to your soccer game than you would use to write a letter to your principal requesting a field trip for your class.

"Spacers"

Name: Jacob Howie

School: Lower Gwynedd Elementary
Ambler, Pennsylvania

About Me: My favorite video game is World of Warcraft. My favorite TV show is *Lost*.





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The Day I Split My Chin

I got my first two-wheel bike with hand brakes when I was seven. I was so thrilled. I wanted to use it right away. So I went for a ride in the park. I went with my mom and my brother, Matthew.

It was a beautiful Sunday morning in June. The sun was bright. There were no clouds in the sky. We were having a wonderful time riding together. At first we rode on a flat part. Then we biked farther north. We came to a **steep** hill. I looked down the hill. Should I ride down it? I wasn't sure if I should. But I did. I don't know why. Maybe I wanted to prove that I could.