BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

PERSONAL NARRATIVES

My Best Moment



by Olivia Vega, Michael Martinoff, Nadel Henville, and Kunal Rai

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Personal Narratives
Level: J/18*

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

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Evaluate fact and opinion

Word Study
- Superlatives

Tier Two Vocabulary (see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- A strong lead

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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My Best Moment

Four Personal Narratives

by Olivia Vega, Michael Martinoff,
Nadel Henville, and Kunal Rai

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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.

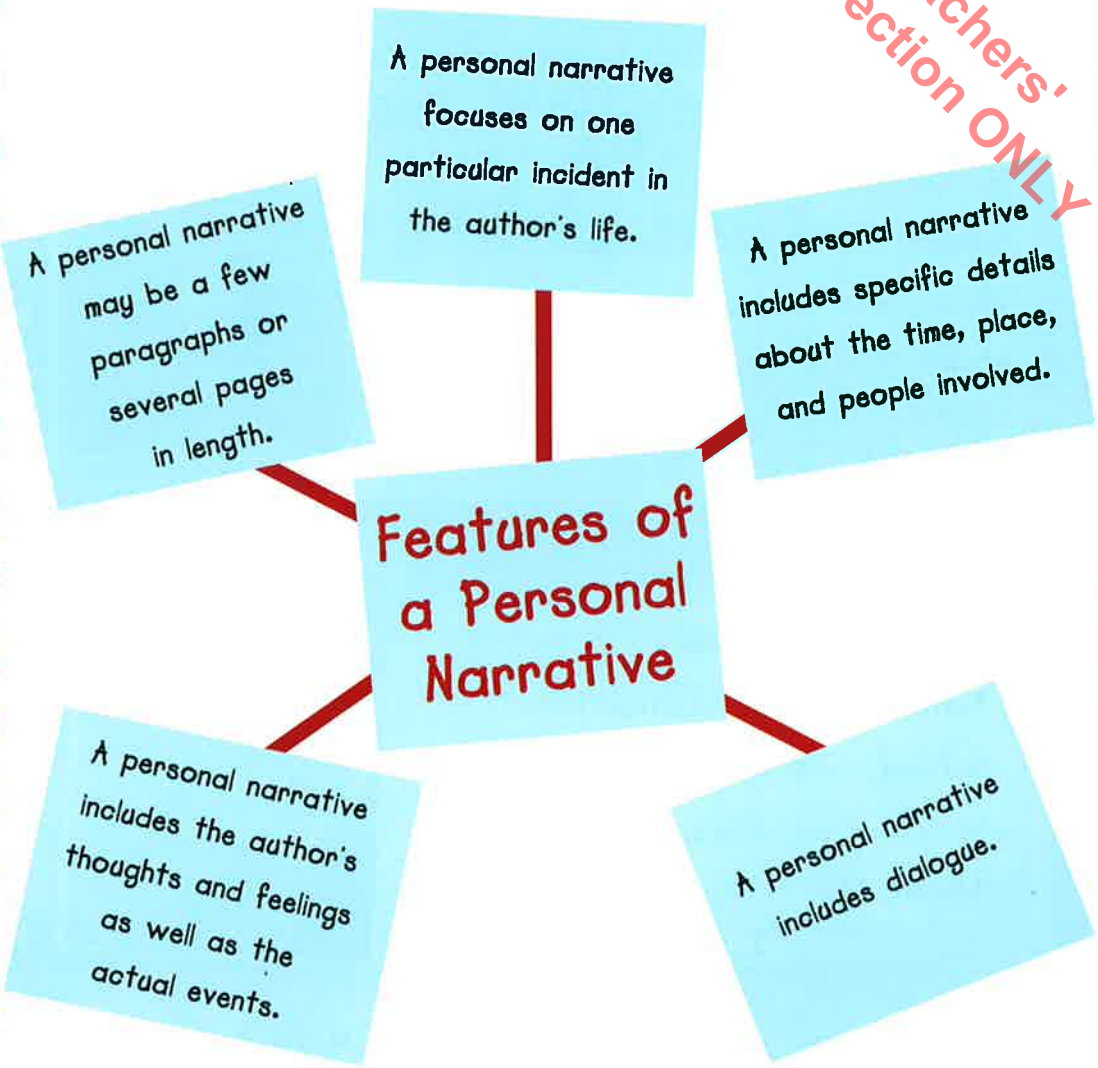
What is the purpose of a personal narrative?

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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"My Brown-Eyed Babe"



Name: Olivia Vega

School: Wellington Christian Academy
Wellington, Kansas

About Me: I like to hang out with friends and I like to run. I want to be an artist or an author.

"The Hammock"



Name: Michael Martinoff

School: Grandhaven Elementary
McMinnville, Oregon

About Me: I like to play baseball and travel. My mom thinks I'm funny.

"Nazaih Arrives"



Name: Nadel Henville

School: Mayberry Elementary
East Hartford, Connecticut

About Me: I was born on the island of St. Lucia. I want to live in Paris when I grow up.

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Tools Writers Use

A Strong Lead

A strong lead, or first sentence, grabs, or "hooks" the reader. A strong lead makes the reader want to keep reading. The lead describes something important about the topic without telling too much about the good parts to come. For personal narratives, writers usually use an indirect lead. An indirect lead may quote someone, ask a question, or describe a setting.

"The Catch"

Name: Kunal Rai

School: Old Union Elementary

Southlake, Texas

About Me: I would like to become an inventor and discover a way for all things to be powered by clean energy.



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My Brown-Eyed Babe

Did Juliet know she was so cute? I patted her furry yellow head. Then I went to my friend Lakin's house. We were having a sleepover.

Juliet is my dog. She is an English setter. She is blond. She is covered with orange spots. My Juliet has the **floppiest** ears ever! I wish she didn't have a sad look all the time. Now was a time to be happy.

Juliet had her own home in the garage. She had her own pillow. She had a blanket. Her dog house did not look comfortable to me. But I am not a dog. For her it was a palace.

I came home from the sleepover. My little brother, Isaiah, ran to me. He yelled, "Juliet had puppies! Six of them!" My heart was racing. I ran to the garage.