



Narrative Memoir Writing

Dear Parents,

Our newest writing focus is on narrative stories. In fourth grade students share stories from their own experiences by writing a personal memoir. A memoir is a collection of experiences that are connected with a repeating line. This strategy helps students firm up their paragraphing structures in preparation for creating multiple-paragraph essays. The narrative memoirs typically revolve around real-life events or personal experiences, encouraging students to reflect on and express their feelings. Fourth graders focus on engaging the reader with a repeating line, developing details, and beginning to use figurative language. Personal narrative memoirs serve as a valuable tool for developing writing skills, self-expression, and building an understanding of a narrative paragraphing structure.

Ideas for Home Support

As your child practices writing these narratives at school you might consider practicing at home with the following ideas:

- Create a memory map where your child visually represents significant events, places, or memories from their life. Use drawings, symbols, and labels to illustrate key moments.
- Have your child interview family members about significant events or memories from their lives.
- Choose a family member or friend to email regularly, sharing memories or events of the day.
- Encourage your child to create visual representations of their personal narratives through drawings, collages, or comic strips.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

Narrative Memoir Rubric

4th Grade

Genre Chart Narrative: Memoir	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
Uses a strategy to engage the reader	Engages the reader in a creative way	Engages the reader	Engaging sentence is weak or off-topic	Does not engage the reader
Is organized in multiple paragraphs	Has several well-organized paragraphs	Has multiple organized paragraphs	Lacks more than two paragraphs or they are unorganized	Has one unorganized paragraph
Describes emotions	Describes emotions in several ways	Describes emotions	Attempts to describe an emotion but is ineffective	No emotions are described
Develops details of characters and events	Has a developed character and setting	Has a character and setting	Has a character or setting	Does not provide either a character or setting
Uses sensory details and other descriptive language	Includes several sensory details and other figurative language	Includes 1 or 2 sensory details and other figurative language	Includes 1 sensory detail but no other figurative language	Includes no sensory details or figurative language
Has a reflective conclusion	Ends with a strong feeling or reflection	Ends with a feeling or reflection	Has an ending but does not show how the writer feels	Does not have an ending
Correct conventions support the meaning	No errors or minor errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors but they do not interfere with meaning	Frequent errors that distract the reader	So many errors that make it hard to read

Name _____ Date _____

Narrative Memoir Organizer

Memoir Topic:
Repeating line:
First Memory:
Details:
1.
2.
3.
Second Memory:
Details:
1.
2.
3.
Third Memory:
Details:
1.
2.
3.
Reflective Conclusion:

Narrative Memoir Organizer Model

Memoir Topic: Memories of teaching fourth grade

Repeating line: Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach.

First Memory: Seeing the faces of students for first time

Details:

1. Waiting to enter classroom

2. Describe their facial expressions

3. Describe how they know where to sit

Second Memory: Relief that they knew basics

Details:

1. Describe basics

2. Describe how I could tell

3. Describe new things to teach

Third Memory: Try do best

Details:

1. Describe accomplishments

2. Describe what did to earn them

3. Describe how celebrated

Reflective Conclusion: I will never forget the memories shared with them.

Model It Paragraph

As a child, I often spent nights chasing fireflies in my grandparent's backyard. Their glow lit up the darkness. We chased them around the grass, trying to capture them in a jar. If we caught one we watched it through the glass for a while and then let it go. Those summer nights were a magical time.

Do It Paragraph

Camping as a family is always a great time. We pitch our tents and build a campfire. Sitting around the fire at night, roasting marshmallows is the best part. After the fire dies down, we crawl into our sleeping bags and fall asleep. Summer camping trips are our favorite family activity.

Narrative Memoir Model

Fourth Grade is My Favorite Grade to Teach

Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach. I remember seeing the faces of my students the first time. They were standing in line when I opened the classroom door. They were all smiling as they looked for their names on their desks.

Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach. My students already know the "basics." I won't have to teach them the alphabet, basic math facts, or even how to line up. They show me that they know these things every day. I am excited to teach them new things.

Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach. My students all try their best and they accomplish a lot. They learn to multiply. They like doing science experiments and they love reading books. We have fun learning.

Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach. I have a great class. I will never forget the memories of teaching them.

Narrative Memoir Model - Annotated

Fourth Grade is My Favorite Grade to Teach

Indent **Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach.** I remember **seeing the eager faces of my students the first time.** They were standing in line when I opened the classroom door. They were **all smiling** as they **shuffled** into the room and looked for ~~there~~ their names on ~~there~~ their desks.

Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach. My students already know the "basics." I won't have to teach them the alphabet, basic math facts, or even how to line up. **Our classroom buzzes with conversation,** as they **amaze** me with the things that they know every day. **I am full of excitement** to teach them new things.

Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach. My students **all try their best and they accomplish a lot.** They learn to multiply. They like doing science experiments and they love reading books. We have fun learning.

Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach. I have a great class. **I will never forget the memories of teaching them.**

Annotations

Uses a strategy to engage the reader: repeating line is in red

Is organized in multiple paragraphs - each of the four paragraphs are indented

Describes emotions is in purple

Develops details of characters and events appears in each paragraph

Uses sensory details and other descriptive language is in blue

Has a reflective conclusion is in red

Revision: Narrative Memoir

4th Grade

Name _____ Date _____

Partner _____ Rubric Score _____

Self	Partner
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Genre Chart

___ ___ **Uses a strategy to engage reader**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Is organized in multiple paragraphs**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Describes emotions**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Develops details of characters and events**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Uses sensory details and other descriptive language**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Has a reflective conclusion**

Suggestions: _____

Editing Checklist

Name _____

Date _____

Partner _____

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self Partner

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Paragraph is indented |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including No Excuse Words |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____ |

(Grammar focus for the class)



Editing Checklist

Name _____

Date _____

Partner _____

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self Partner

- | | | |
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| _____ | _____ | 6. _____ |

(Grammar focus for the class)