

Narrative Writing

Snow Picture

Objectives & Common Core Connections

- * Develop a real or imagined experience or event.
- * Focus on the purpose of narrative writing.
- * Establish a situation and characters.
- * Write a good opening sentence.
- * Organize a clear event sequence.
- * Use dialogue to show characters' responses.
- * Add descriptive details to develop events.
- * Provide a sense of closure.
- * Write a narrative.

Introduction Provide each student with a copy of the writing frame (page 60). Read the title and first lines. Also discuss the illustration and point out the blank speech balloons. Explain that students will develop a narrative about the scene.

Model Summarize the situation suggested by the illustration. You might say: *It's night, and two children are watching a big snowstorm through the window.* Develop opening sentences. For example:

- The snow came down thick and fast, covering the houses, trees, bushes, and street. Ellen and Jake were excited.

Guide students in developing a sequence of events. For example:

- big snowstorm at night
- Ellen and Jake make snowman in morning
- Ellen gets upset when snowman melts that afternoon
- Jake comforts her with photo of snowman

Model sentences to show how the characters might respond to the snow. For example:

- "I'm going to make a snowman," Jake said.
- "Me, too!" Ellen cried.

Model sentences in which descriptive details show how the characters respond to the snow. For example:

- Ellen and Jake worked hard, building a glistening snowman with a long turnip nose. They named him Jolly because he made them happy. However, by afternoon the sun was melting Jolly. He looked worn and sad. Ellen ran into the house crying.

Point out that a narrative has an ending or conclusion. Give as an example:

- Jake followed her. "Jolly isn't gone," he said, and handed her a photograph he had taken of the snowman earlier that morning.

Guided Practice Have students complete the writing frame. Encourage them to use their own dialogue, details, and ending.

Review Invite volunteers to share their finished pages with the class. Have listeners use items 1–6 and 8–11 on the assessment checklist (page 64) to evaluate the effectiveness of other students' work.

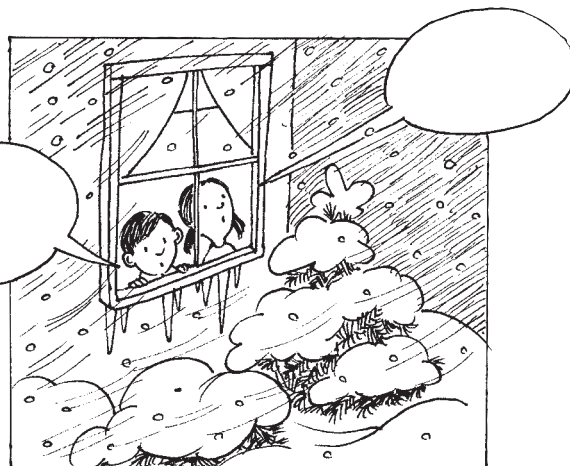
Independent Practice Use the On Your Own activity (page 61) as homework or review. Encourage students to use what they learned in the lesson to complete it. Explain that they can choose a topic from the Idea Box or use one of their own. Suggest that students limit the number of characters to two or three. You might also invite them to title their finished narratives.

Snow Picture



It's a snowy night. What will happen tomorrow?

- Focus on your writing purpose.
- Tell what is happening and who the characters are.
- Organize events in order.
- Use dialogue and details to show how characters respond to events.
- Provide a good opening sentence and an ending to the story.
- Write your narrative on another sheet of paper.



Writing Purpose _____

What Is Happening _____

Character 1 _____ Character 2 _____

Opening Sentence _____

Order of Events _____

Dialogue and Details _____

Ending _____

On Your Own

Choose a story topic from the Idea Box or think of one of your own. Complete this page. Then, write your narrative on another sheet of paper.



Idea
Box

- ☐ Shy Child Gets Lead in School Play ☐ My Idea: _____
- ☐ Identical Twins Confuse Neighbors _____
- ☐ Storm Knocks Out Electricity _____

Writing Purpose _____

What Is Happening _____

Character 1 Character 2 Character 3

Opening Sentence _____

Order of Events _____

Dialogue and Details _____

Ending _____

Student Assessment Checklist

Narrative Writing

1. Developed a real or imagined experience or event. ☐
2. Focused on the writing purpose. ☐
3. Established a situation. ☐
4. Established characters. ☐
5. Developed a good opening sentence. ☐
6. Organized events in sequence. ☐
7. Used time words to signal event order. ☐
8. Included dialogue. ☐
9. Used descriptive details. ☐
10. Provided a conclusion. ☐
11. Wrote a narrative. ☐

More Things to Check

- Capitalized proper nouns. ☐
- Capitalized the first word of sentences. ☐
- Used correct punctuation. ☐
- Spelled words correctly. ☐
- Followed correct paragraph form. ☐