

Narrative Writing

**A Review – 10 Things to Remember
When Writing a Narrative**

Number 1 – Your Story Beginning

Your story needs a strong beginning. You can achieve this using one of the following methods:

- Dialogue (Conversation)
- A Question
- A Vivid Description
- An Interesting Fact
- Sound Effects

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/2992>

Dialogue

“Hurry or you’ll be late!” called my mother from the bottom of the stairs. “Today of all days you want to be on time.” If I had only know what that day would bring, I would have stayed in bed.



A Question

Have you ever had a day when you wished you had stayed in bed? As I rushed to catch the bus on what seemed to be a perfectly normal day I had no idea what was ahead of me.

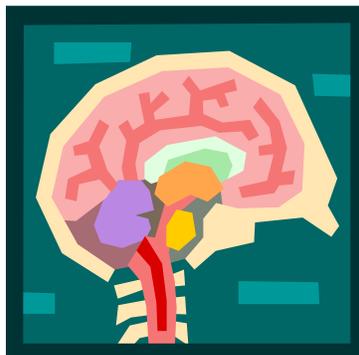


A Vivid Description

The sun was warm on my back as I raced toward the waiting yellow school bus. As I nestled into the worn leather seat I was greeted by the friendly voices of other excited children. The look on my face was one of confidence and contentment. With a jerk the bus rumbled down the road and I was on my way into one of the worst days of my life.

An Interesting Fact

Shock has been known to kill ten year olds. It can cause their brains to explode and their heart to stop dead still. These facts raced through my mind as I stood dumbfounded in front of my fifth grade classmates. I wish I had stayed in bed!



Sound Effects

“Bzzzzzzz!” The sound of my alarm clock droned in my ears as I struggled to come awake. With a start I sat straight up in my bed. This was my big day and I had to be on time.



Number 2 - Paragraphs

Be sure your story has paragraphs. They tell when you're switching time, place, topic or speaker, and they help break the page up so it is not just a solid block of writing.

How Do I Know When To Start a New Paragraph?

There are a few standard times to make a new paragraph:

- When you start in on a new topic
- When you skip to a new time
- When you skip to a new place
- When a new person begins to speak
- When you want to produce a dramatic effect

<http://www.saidsimple.com/content/When-to-Make-a-New-Paragraph>

Number 3 - Capitalization & Punctuation

- Capitalize
 - Beginnings of Sentences
 - Proper Nouns
- Punctuate
 - End Marks (question mark, period, exclamation marks)
 - Commas when joining two sentences with a conjunction, addressing a person, with quotations, etc.

Number 4 – Use Rich Words

Remember words such as **said**, **went**, and **put** are **DEAD**. Use words that describe the action.



Went



NOT

My dad **went** to work.



BUT

My dad **raced** to work.



Said



NOT

Jane **said** she had a secret.



BUT



Jane **whispered** to Peter a wonderful secret.

Number 5 - Wow Words

Show your reader that you have a high-quality, first-class, superior, excellent, exceptional, outstanding, brilliant, extraordinary, incomparable vocabulary by using 5th grade vocabulary words.

Don't Use	Use These Instead:
good	acceptable, admirable, commendable, praiseworthy, virtuous, accomplished, skilled,
bad	Defective, erroneous, inadequate, substandard, corrupt, vile, distressing, severe, offensive, immoral
thing	material object, article, concept, entity, apparatus, device, detail, statement, items.
big	considerable, colossal, immense, sizable, vast, eminent, influential, paramount, prime, prominent
small	diminutive, immature, minute, slight, negligible, petty, trivial, limited.
important	far-reaching, grave, momentous, significant, substantial, prominent, notable
happy	content, joyous, jubilant, thrilled, advantageous, favorable, fortunate,
sad	sorrowful, cheerless, dismal, gloomy, melancholy, mournful, somber grievous

http://alon.hasharon.k12.il/new_ataron/mikzoot/english/%5Cdenise_text%5Cforcedownload.asp?fileToDownload=wowWords12class6.doc

Wow Words

Wow words!

 tasty

 hot

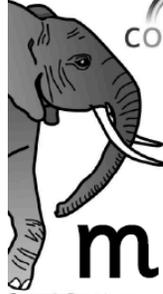
 grumpy

 bouncy

 sparkly

 scary

 fast

 massive

 colourful

 tiny

 bright

 jolly

 sharp

 prickly

 beautiful

 ugly

 cute

 precious

SparkleBox © Copyright 2007. SparkleBox Teacher Resources Downloaded FREE from www.sparklebox.co.uk

<http://resources.sparklebox.me.uk/501-999/sb665.pdf>

Number 6 - Show, Don't Tell

The **Show, Don't Tell** method of writing is when the writer is able to create a picture in the reader's mind, to get away from the repetition of such empty words like went, big, or said.



NOT

Susan exercised.



BUT



Sweat poured from Susan's forehead as she continued to do one hundred sit-ups .

Number 7 - Conversation

The Five Rules for Writing Direct Quotations

Rule 1	Rule 2	Rule 3	Rule 4	Rule 5
Add quotation marks.	Separate source phrase from quote.	Capitalize the first word of the direct quotation.	Add end marks.	Add needed capitalization and punctuation.

Conversation

Remember

You must make a new paragraph every time a different person speaks!!!!

Number 8 - Sentences

- Vary your sentences.
 - Are some of your sentences long and others short?
 - Do you start the beginnings differently?
 - Do some sentences start with a part of speech other than a noun or pronoun?

Number 9 – Figurative Language

Use a little figurative language to add interest to your story.

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Alliteration
- Onomatopoeia

Simile

comparison between two unlike things that have something in common using like or as

Examples

- It's been a hard day's night and I've been working like a dog. - The Beatles
- My heart is like an open highway. - Jon Bon Jovi
- like two peas in a pod
like Christmas in summer
- as hungry as a bear
as nutty as a fruitcake
as quick as lightning

Metaphor

Metaphor= comparison between two unlike things that have something in common without using like or as

Examples

Patty was a raging tiger when she lost her lunch money.

During the night the forest was a dark, frightening battlefield.

Alliteration

repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in
two or more neighboring words or syllables

Examples

down in the dumps

do or die

right as rain

sink or swim

pay the price

back to the basics

green as grass

live the life

Onomatopoeia

the imitation of natural sounds in word form.

These words help us form mental pictures about
the things, people, or places that are described

Examples

buzz

hiss

roar

woof

bang

pop

hiss

sizzle

Number 10 - Plot Structure

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/story/cinderella.html>

- a plot, including setting and characters
- a climax (This is when the plot is solved.)
- an ending

United Streaming

- Parts of a Story: Huck and Jim [05:34]

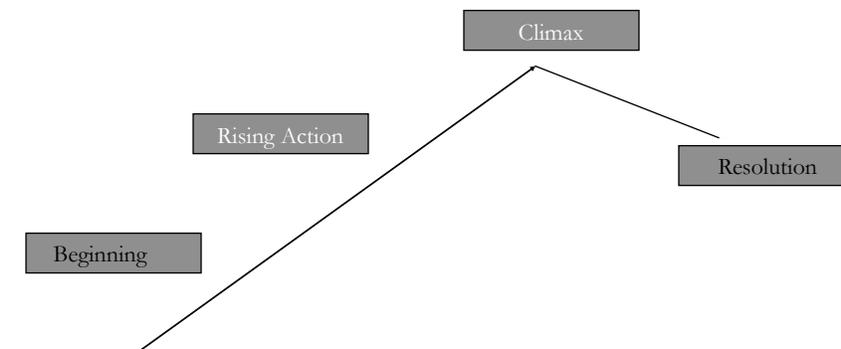
<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=20D49155-2509-447F-8C47-69C9B3D2128A&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US>

Beginning

- In the beginning of your story, you should introduce your characters.
- The reader should also know about the world your characters live in (the setting) and the something about each of the characters in your story.
- The beginning of your story is also the place where your plot (the problem) is first introduced.

Middle

Your story needs to build to something exciting, **the climax**. Write about a simple conflict, a task that must be completed, a question that must be answered, or a barrier that must be overcome.



Middle

- **Include**
 - **Actions**
 - **Dialogue**
 - **Sensory Details**
 - **Thoughts and Feelings**
 - **Suspense (Remember to build to a climax.)**

The End

This is the big finish. The end should reveal how you overcame your problem. All conflicts are resolved and everything goes back to normal.