

Past Events

Directions: Recall a single memory in your life associated with any seven of the following:

1. Neighborhood bully
2. Getting hurt
3. The attic (or basement)
4. The dentist
5. An older friend
6. A nightmare
7. The first time you got dressed up
8. An important promise
9. A costume
10. Glasses or braces
11. A birth
12. Haunted house
13. Cemetery
14. Railroad tracks
15. Grocery store

When and How and Why?

Directions: Answer each question in detail.

1. When and how did you learn the truth about Santa Claus?
2. When and how did you learn to climb a tree?
3. When and how did you stick up for a friend?
4. When and how did you perform in front of an audience?
5. When did you try something that flopped?
6. When and how did you play at a construction site?
7. When and how did you play at an abandoned house, a barn, or a tree fort?
8. When and why were you accused of something you didn't do?
9. When and how did you lose something that was very valuable to you or your family?
10. When and why did you stay up the latest you ever stayed awake?
11. When and why were you talked into something you later regretted?
12. When and how did you forget something that was really important?
13. When and why were you ever locked out (or in)?
14. When and how did you ever outsmart someone?

Types of Personal Narratives

1. A trip or journey that had a dramatic influence on you—(ex) a vacation to the Grand Canyon or visiting another country
2. A personal achievement or triumph—(ex) winning the baseball game with a home run
3. An experience with another person (perhaps a sibling) that caused a change in attitude for you—(ex) breaking up with a boyfriend/girlfriend
4. An ordeal or tragedy that affected you or your family—(ex) a death in the family
5. A family custom or tradition—(ex) a wedding
6. An emotional experience associated with a certain place—(ex) visiting Grandma's house one Sunday
7. A memorable experience you had at school
8. A baby-sitting experience or other experience requiring a challenging responsibility
9. A time you cheated in school and were caught
10. Finding a stray animal and bringing it home
11. A memorable experience you had shopping—(ex) getting new clothes
12. The difficulties you had learning to drive
13. A time you got lost in a strange town
14. An experience at work (possibly getting fired or quitting) or looking for a job
15. The first time you spent the night away from home
16. Running away from home when you were much younger
17. An experience you had riding in a limousine, helicopter, horse-drawn carriage, or other unusual vehicle
18. A traumatic experience you had at a fire, tornado, flood, hurricane, or other dangerous storm
19. The best concert you've attended
20. Saving someone from getting hurt
21. An account of the time you and/or your family had to move to another city
22. A game you used to play outside in the spring, summer, fall, or winter
23. When you became disillusioned with someone you admired or respected
24. A time when you stuck up for someone
25. A time when you tried to help a friend and made things worse
26. A time you had to prove yourself to someone older, like a parent, older brother or sister, or teacher
27. Working in the yard—(ex) mowing the grass, burning leaves, weeding the garden, avoiding frogs or snakes, etc.

How Description Creates Mood

Part I

Directions: Examine each group of phrases and list the mood you connect to that description to the right.

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| (ex) coffin of dark oak | (ex) sorrow, remorse |
| dim lights | anguish, faith |
| tearful praying | |
| sniffing | |
| plush red carpet | |
| yellow, pink, purple flowers | |
| 1. jagged rocks | |
| dark clouds | |
| crashing waves | |
| tossing the flimsy boat | |
| gulls screeching overhead | |
| frigid wind | |
| 2. faded Persian rug | |
| crutches lying on the floor | |
| quiet as a cemetery | |
| her 1912 World's Fair lamp | |
| dimly lit living room | |
| quiet smile | |
| 3. sunny June day | |
| warm breeze | |
| open windows | |
| children laughing in the front yard | |
| ice cubes clinking in the cups of lemonade | |
| the buzzing of insects | |
| 4. December 21 | |
| raging blizzard | |
| shingles tearing loose from the roof | |
| windows rattling | |
| blankets pulled tight | |
| news reports on the radio | |