

# Family Newsletter



## Unit 7 Writing a Personal Narrative

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a unit called Writing a Personal Narrative. Students will read and discuss a published model about horseback riding, “Mrs. Mack.” They will also read a student model about a visit to an aunt’s office. These models will help students learn what makes a well-written personal narrative. Then students will use the writing process to write their own personal narratives. As they follow the writing process, they will consider the audience and topic, include only necessary and interesting details, and organize main events in sequence. They will also vary sentence structure to improve their writing. Here are some ways for you to help your child develop these skills.

### Homework

Have your child complete the exercise below and return it to his or her teacher on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Help your child practice exploring a personal narrative topic. With your child, look through a recent photo album. Ask your child to choose a photo that reminds him or her of an interesting personal experience. Have your child write the topic of the personal experience at the top of a piece of paper. Then ask your child questions about the experience, such as, *What did you do? What did you see, hear, touch, taste, smell?* and *How did you feel?* Have your child write details about the experience.**

My Day at the Rodeo

- rode a horse
- watched barrel racing
- ate popcorn



Check out Kids’ Place Houghton Mifflin English! [www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/)

### Activities

**Sharing Personal Narratives** Ask your child to say an adjective, such as *silly, happy, sad, hard*. Tell your child a story about something that happened to you that fits the adjective. Then you say an adjective. Ask your child to share the personal story this time.

**Special Things** With your child, walk through the house and point to a special object. It might be something that has been handed down in your family, something you made together, or something purchased for a special occasion. Share a personal experience you had that involves the object. Then have your child choose an object and share a personal experience.

### Reading Tip



Here are some books that your child might enjoy.

**Author: A True Story**

by Helen Lester

**Basket Moon** by Mary Lyn Ray