

Writing a narrative

Remembering what you know



Look at a good sample

Success criteria

- Maintained tense
- Narrow time frame
- Technical accuracy
- Vivid detail
- Feeling/ emotion
- Range of techniques



Create a mindmap/list of 5 memorable events from your life that you could retell

Examples

Birth of a baby brother

Death of a grandfather

School trip that went wrong

Birthday party that was a disaster

Friend who lied to you

First party (ended badly)

Exam you messed up

Something you broke

- Write a story that begins or ends with the words: 'My mother always warned me, 'Pride comes before a fall.'
- Disappointment.
- She/he knew it had been a mistake to leave her/his mobile phone on the desk.
- The School Reunion *or* The Reunion.
- Write a story that begins with the words: 'He thought that a bunch of roses would sort it out. How wrong he was!'
- Write about a time you felt embarrassed.

Consider one event – use the grid below to fill in as much information as you can.

What?	Where?	When?
Who?	Why?	How?

What do you feel?

What are you thinking?

What can you see?

Focus on one key moment

Slow down the pace and focus on the
details linking them to feelings.

I saw the box. The wood was gold and gleaming, when I expected it to look dull and sad. It was more warm and inviting and I was glad about that. The room too had a gentle buzz about it and guiltily I felt the heaviness of my grief lifting and floating somewhere about the room.

What is happening here? What do you like about it?

Have a go.....

I saw the box.

4 word sentence- What did you see?

The wood was gold and gleaming when I expected it to look dull and sad.

Descriptive sentence with alliteration and a change in what you had expected

It was more warm and inviting and I was glad about that.

More detail (sense of touch) and a personal revelation

The room too had a gentle buzz about it and guiltily I felt the heaviness of my grief lifting and floating somewhere about the room.

Wider detail, onomatopoeia, metaphor to describe your feelings.

Narrow your time frame and your focus, then go to town with your style

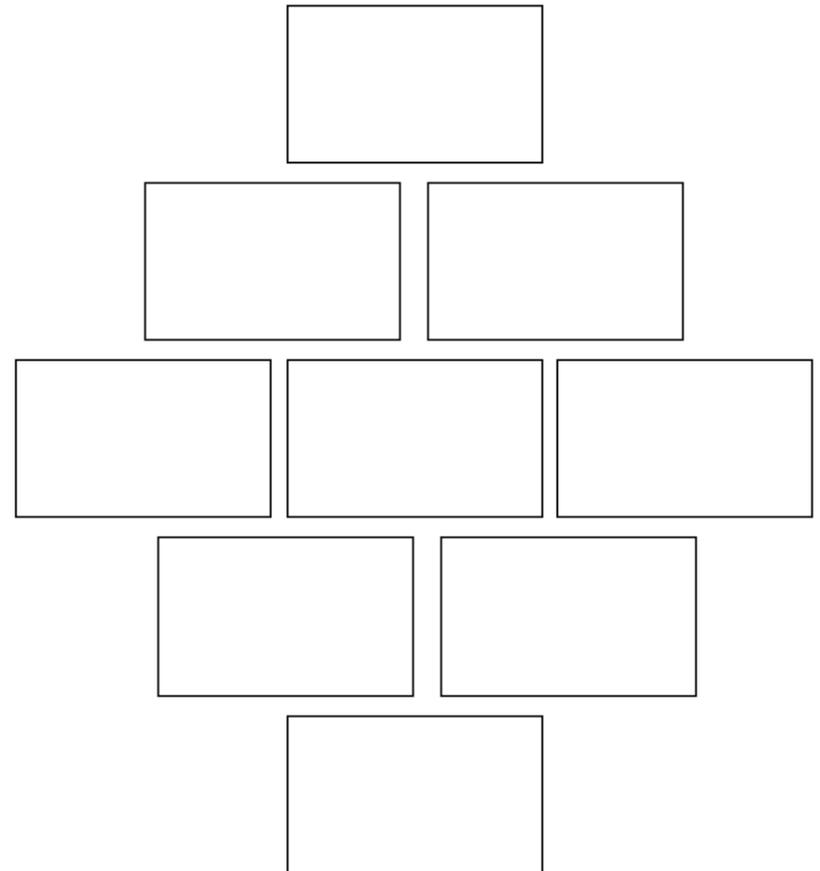
- 
- Sadness
 - Getting dressed in funeral clothes

- 
- Seeing your mum and feeling worse
 - Seeing the coffin and feeling better

- 
- The beautiful day
 - Reflections

Structure and style: Categorise which matters most from the list below

- Use Pathetic fallacy to create the mood.
- Use dialogue to introduce characters and themes.
- Use motifs to develop themes
- Use anaphora to suggest control
- Vary your sentencing to increase tension.
- Order events for maximum impact
- Provide a resolution to give a satisfying ending
- Use surprise and shock tactics to add interest.
- Use first and present tense
Use third person and the past tense?



<p>Style card 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Anaphora○ Pathetic fallacy○ Short sentence	<p>Style card 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ?○ ?○ ?	<p>Style card 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ?○ ?○ ?	<p>Style card 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ?○ ?○ ?
<p>Style card 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Metaphor○ Alliteration○ Subordinate clause	<p>Style card 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ?○ ?○ ?	<p>Style card 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ?○ ?○ ?	<p>Style card 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ?○ ?○ ?

Create a range of style cards for techniques to aim to use in each paragraph.

Connect :

As a group, evaluate these story openings. Pick your favourite and least favourite and explain why.

1 I write this sitting in the kitchen sink.

2 If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like... and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth.

3 I have just returned from a visit to my landlord – the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with.

4 The snow in the mountains was melting and Bunny had been dead for several weeks before we came to understand the gravity of our situation.

5 A man without hands came to the door to sell me a photograph of my house.

6 When he woke in the woods in the dark and the cold of the night he'd reach out to touch the child sleeping beside him.

Favourite:

Because:

Least Favourite:

Because:

Blank page panic!!

- Dots and Phone number starting point



Pathetic Fallacy, Anaphora, short sentence 715935268

- Outside the sky was grey and overcast. Perfect. My boxy window was leaking. It looked like puddles filled the floor and sky. My head hurt. I wanted this day over. All done. I'd been waiting for this moment. I'd been dreading it for a while now.

Filling the dots

How to start each paragraph- have a plan!

Fortunately,
Sadly,
Incredibly,

Begin with an adverb

Back in the 1980s,
In this day and age,
Just this morning,

Begin with a time phrase

All over the house,
Behind the garden shed,
In Swansea,
*Begin with a place
phrase*

Forgotten.

Alone.

Abandoned.

Use a single word

Like an unwanted toy, this kitten has
been thrown into a bin.

It is as clear as crystal that we need to
take urgent action.

Begin with a simile

Sleeping...
Laughing...
Resting..
Hating....

Begin with an -ing verb

Bullied and beaten,
Threatened and abused,
Confused,

Begin with an -ed verb

Could this?
Should I?
Would it ever?

*Begin with a conditional
verb*

Cold and alone,
Clean and modern,
Dark, dingy...

Begin with an adjective

Boost your vocab

- Choose 10 ambitious words you will try to use.

Aiming High

- ✓ Engages the reader's interest
- ✓ well-crafted with stylistic features
- ✓ Original and imaginative
- ✓ Plot and characterisation are effectively constructed and sustained
- ✓ Material is selected and prioritised to maintain interest
- ✓ Purposefully organised, sequenced and well-paced
- ✓ Paragraphs are effectively varied in length and there is a sophisticated organisation
- ✓ Cohesion is reinforced by the use of text connectives and other linking devices
- ✓ Ambitious vocabulary is used

Accuracy..

- ✓ Appropriate and effective variation of sentence structures
- ✓ Sophisticated use of simple, compound and complex sentences to achieve particular effects
- ✓ Accurate punctuation is used to vary pace, clarify meaning, avoid ambiguity and create deliberate effects
- ✓ Virtually all spelling, including that of complex irregular words, is correct
- ✓ Tense changes are used confidently and purposefully

Dialogue for effective characterisation

Mum shouted up the stairs but her words were a blur. Reported Speech

I could hear my uncle's loud, insensitive babble, "He's had a good innings!" Comma to introduce- Speech Marks to surround

New line for a new speaker

Will be much missed," some-one retorted.

What did they know? they wouldn't be the one with the hole in their life where he should have been. Subtly reveals 2 characters and develops the situation