

**Lesson 10** It Happened to Me

A **personal narrative** is a true story an author writes about his or her own experiences. Mick wrote a personal narrative about something that happened one day on the way to school.

**On the Way to School**

Every day was the same. I walked to school past buildings full of windows. I never knew what was behind the windows. Then, something changed.

One day, I was counting sidewalk cracks, as usual, when I heard an amazing sound. Actually, it was lots of sounds. Someone was playing a harp. I looked around until I found the open window.

I forgot all about school. I just stood and stared. I could see a lady with silver hair just inside the window. It looked as if she was hugging the harp. One arm on each side stroked the strings. Low notes and high notes came out all at once. I stood there until she turned and smiled at me. I felt pretty dumb for getting caught staring at her, but I smiled back. Then, she went back to playing. She didn't seem to mind that I was listening.

Now, when I walk to school, I stop at crack number 144. I look up at the harp lady's window. If she is there, I listen for a while. We wave at each other. It's nice to have a friend to wave to on the way to school.

Notice that Mick provided a conclusion to his story. A conclusion ends the story. Sometimes, a conclusion explains how things have changed since the event. Underline Mick's conclusion.

**Here are the features of a personal narrative:**

- It tells a story about something that happens in a writer's life.
- It is written in the first person, using words such as *I*, *me*, and *my*.
- It uses time words to tell events in a sequence.
- It expresses the writer's personal feelings.

## Lesson 10 It Happened to Me

Why do people write personal narratives?

They might want to share their thoughts and feelings about something that happened to them. They might also want to entertain their readers. Often, people write to share their feelings and to entertain.

Who reads personal narratives?

If you write a personal narrative, teachers, parents, and classmates might read it. Ask yourself what you want your readers to get from your writing. What might they learn about you?

What can personal narratives be about?

They can be about anything that actually happens to the author. It might be a happy or sad event, a funny situation or a scary one.

What could you write a personal narrative about? Here are some idea starters.

**my best day**

**my worst moment**

**my first swimming lesson**

**my greatest accomplishment**

**my biggest mistake**

**My picture was in the newspaper because...**

**how I met my best friend**

**I never worked so hard as when...**

**I was so embarrassed when...**

**I was so mad when...**

Now, choose a few ideas that you like. Jot some notes about each one. One of these might be the start of a great personal narrative.

Starter: \_\_\_\_\_

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Starter: \_\_\_\_\_

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