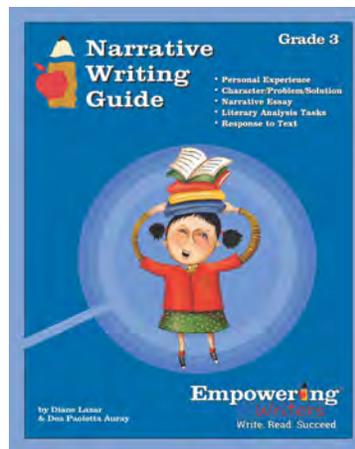




Grade 3 Narrative Writing Guide

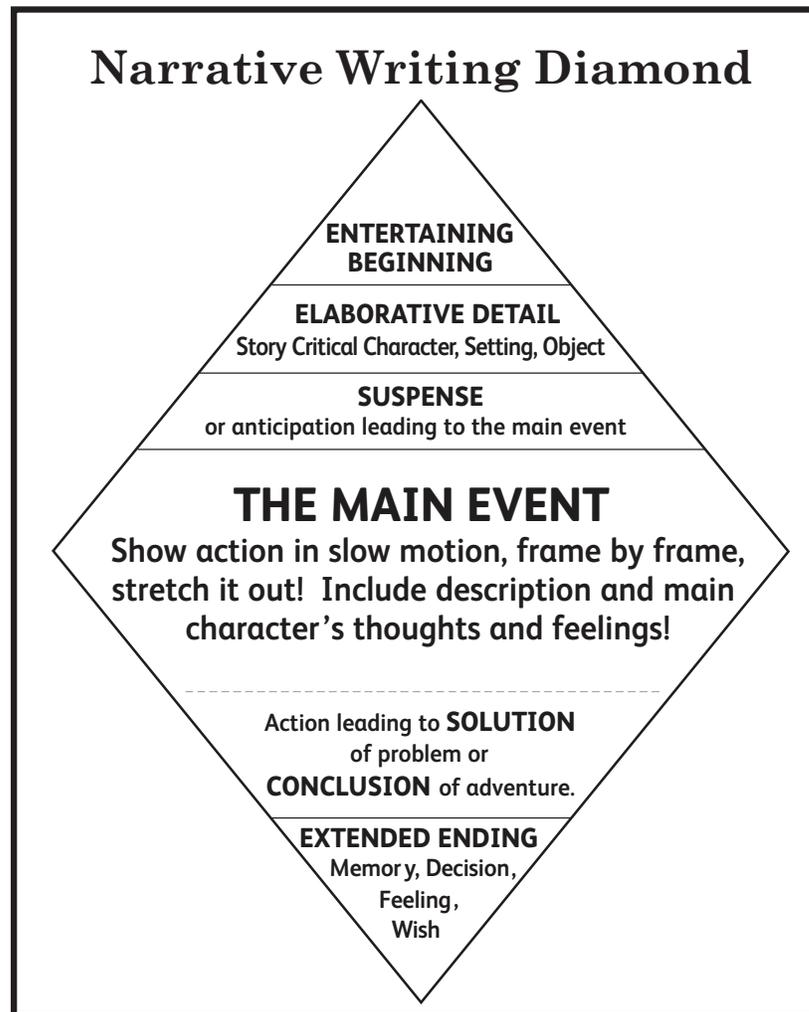
Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 1: Recognizing Genre/Organization



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See the movement and shape of the plot and reduce the story to its key elements - SUMMARIZE!



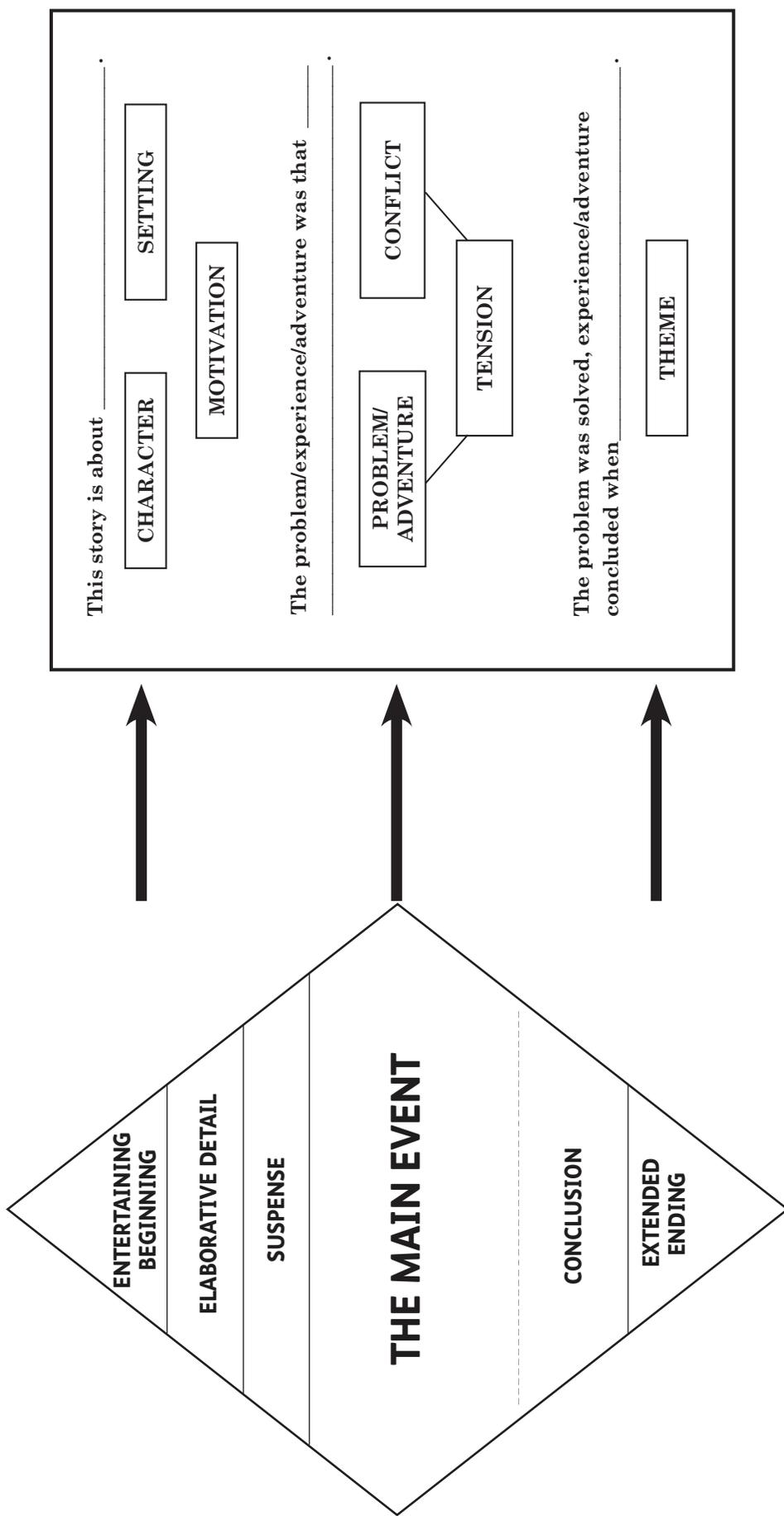
This story is about _____ .

The problem/experience/adventure was that _____ .

The problem was solved, experience/adventure concluded when _____ .

Use this same template for summarizing what you read AND to plan what you're going to write!

Student Reference Page



Name _____

The Swan Boat Ride

Genre: Personal Experience

I jumped out of the car and ran towards the pond. Mom and Dad raced after me shouting, “Wait Carol! We have to stay together!” We were right in the middle of Boston, at the Commons, a beautiful park with plenty of green grass and a lagoon right in the center. Today was the day we were going to ride the swan boats for the first time.

The boats were painted bright green with rows of wooden bench seats trimmed in red. An elegant white swan sat in the back of the boat with the driver seated in the middle of the swan’s wings. The day was calm and clear with a bright blue sky. It was a perfect day for a boat ride.

Just then I noticed something! A line snaked all the way around the pond and almost down the street. Oh no, I thought! That can’t be the line for the swan boats! Dad walked up to the man who was selling tickets and asked about the line. Sure enough, everyone had the same idea as we did. We would have to wait our turn!

My eyes got teary and I slumped forward. Mom put her hand on my back and told me, “It’s OK Carol! We’ll get in line and you’ll see, it’ll move quickly!” We shuffled to the back of the line and took our place. All of a sudden, this beautiful day didn’t seem quite as good as it did a moment ago.

I crossed my arms and blew out a big breath! Mom and Dad talked quietly with each other and I just stood there. I looked up at the sky and down at the path. I craned my neck around to look at the front of the line but all I saw were legs and shoes. There sure were a lot of people here! I heard children laughing and some people speaking in a language I didn’t understand. I guess this park draws visitors from around the world, I thought.

After a few minutes the line began to move. Mom told me that each boat carried at least 25-30 passengers. I started to count to see how long it might take, but I lost count three times and gave up. To pass the time, Mom looked up the history of the swan boats. I didn’t realize that the first ones were built almost a hundred and fifty years ago and that the same family runs the boat business today. It’s now the fourth generation of the family. That must make them happy to see such a crowd! We saw images of the first boat that was made and it was much smaller! Thankfully, the boats are larger now and can fit many tourists. Amazingly the driver still pedals the boat, no motor here!

(continued)

Sure enough, the line continued to move quickly and before we knew it we were first in line for the next boat. The man motioned us forward and took my hand as I stepped onto the platform. The boat rocked and I almost fell sideways. I took tiny shuffling steps and sat down on the bench. When the boat was loaded we gently pushed off from the dock. I felt a light breeze on my face and turned towards the sun. Smiling from ear to ear, I thanked Mom and Dad and settled in for our ride.

The City of Boston certainly looked different from this vantage point. We circled around the lagoon and under a bridge. Trees covered most of the tall buildings but I could make out the statue in the park. We passed by the famous island from the book, Make Way for Ducklings, and saw plenty of mallard ducks all around the edge of the water. I felt at peace as we floated past each landmark.

We finished the circle and the driver began to pull back to the docks. Our boat ride was over!

As we carefully stepped out of the craft, the driver tipped his hat and smiled. I smiled back and waved as we walked into the park for our picnic. While we ate, I couldn't help but think about the peaceful ride. It's amazing to me that people have been enjoying this summer pastime for well over a century! I wonder if my ancestors ever took the swan boat ride? When I'm old enough I want to be a swan boat driver so I can give this kind of joy to people from all over the world.

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

This story is about _____ .

The problem/adventure/experience was that _____

_____ .

The problem was solved, adventure/experience concluded when

_____ .

What is the theme of the story? _____

(Go back and highlight the sections of the story that indicate the theme.)

Name _____

Austin's Lunch

Genre: Character/Problem/Solution

Austin and Hayley stepped onto the pathway leading to the pond. They carried a cooler along with a blanket to spread on the grass. Chattering as they walked, you could hear the excitement in their voices about the first picnic of spring.

The sky was a perfect shade of blue and the air was just warm enough for a light sweater. The fat, red robins were out and feasting on juicy worms as Austin and Hayley walked by. Bees buzzed, daffodils poked their heads out of the ground, and the leaves in the trees were starting to unfurl.

As they rounded the corner to the pond, they stopped short. What in the world was that they wondered? Just ahead, on the edge of the pond sat a large bird. It was white with a long neck and a red colored bill. Above its bill was a black mask. "A swan," whispered Austin. Oh no thought Hayley. She murmured, "Swans can be a little aggressive especially if they're nesting."

They approached the pond area cautiously, Hayley hanging back as Austin led the way. They tiptoed around to the wide area of grass on the opposite end of the pond and spread out their blanket. They were far enough away from the swan not to disturb it.

They both sat down cross legged and reached into the cooler. They had packed chicken sandwiches, ice cold lemonade and some orange slices. It was a feast for a king! Austin's eyes lit up when he noticed the chocolate chip cookies for dessert. "YUM!" he exclaimed and smiled. Unwrapping a sandwich, Hayley took a big bite and sighed contentedly. This was such a beautiful day, she thought. Just then, they heard a grunting noise followed by a loud hissing. Austin looked up from his lunch but didn't notice anything nearby. He unwrapped his sandwich.

Before too long, a ruffle of white feathers came into view. Could it be the swan, thought Austin? He jumped up to get a better look and that's when the bird came running full speed at him. Hayley raced over to the tree and hid behind it leaving her sandwich behind. Austin, lurched at the intruder trying to scare it away. The swan came closer, flapping its wings and making a loud trumpeting sound. "Get out of here!" shouted Austin, but the swan paid no attention. Its large bill opened and closed while it chased Austin around the pond. He ran around in circles holding onto his sandwich as he did. The swan was close behind.

(continued)

Hayley shouted from her hiding place, “Throw the sandwich at it!” Austin just kept running. He was breathing heavily and it felt like his lungs were going to explode. This swan is really mad, he thought. As Austin got closer to the pond he noticed a large mound of grass and twigs with several pale blue eggs in the center. This must be its nesting ground. No wonder it’s so angry.

At that moment, Hayley launched her sandwich at the swan and Austin followed suit. The swan turned and picked at the sandwiches, giving them time to grab the rest of their picnic and race down the path away from the pond. “Phew! We made it,” gasped Hayley, when they were far enough away. Austin panted and his shirt was stuck to his skin. “That was a close one!” he wheezed.

They ran back towards home as quickly as possible and collapsed on the front porch giggling. This perfect day turned out to be quite an adventure. “You should have seen your face when that swan ran towards you,” Hayley laughed. Austin laughed and wondered if maybe he should have thrown that sandwich earlier. His heart raced as he recalled the attack. “How about a picnic on the porch?” asked Hayley, “It’s definitely safer than the pond today.” Austin agreed and set out the blanket.

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

This story is about _____ .

The problem/adventure/experience was that _____

_____ .

The problem was solved, adventure/experience concluded when

_____ .

What is the theme of the story? _____

(Go back and highlight the sections of the story that indicate the theme.)

Name _____

Swans

Genre: Informational

How much do you know about swans? Swans are beautiful, proud birds. Come discover how they live and ways people have honored them for centuries.

What do swans look like? There are seven different kinds of swans. All of them are related to ducks. All swans are large birds with long necks. They are among the largest flying birds. Adult swans are white with red bills. They have black masks above their bills. Their bills have black tips. They use their bills to reach into the water to eat the aquatic plants that are at the bottom of the pond or lake. Baby swans are called cygnets. Cygnets are gray with a dark bill.

What is life like for a swan? Swans live for about 35 years! When the cygnets grow up they find a mate. Then the pair, one male and one female, usually live together for life. They spend much of their time in the water. They build nests nearby. Both the male and female help build the nest and take care of the eggs. They are aggressive when protecting their eggs so humans should stay clear. Some live in captivity, in farms or parks.

It seems that people have always loved swans. Authors have written stories about them, showcasing their lifestyle. Poets have written poems about these graceful creatures and there is even music written about swans. They are a symbol of love for many because of their long-lasting relationships. Maybe that's why they have captured the hearts of people! In Boston people built boats that look like swans. They are called swan boats and visitors to the city can take a ride in the lagoon on one of these boats.

The next time you see one of these beautiful creatures, you will understand them better! You can't help but notice their elegant appearance, appreciate their lifestyle, and recognize how these birds are honored. They are an amazing species!

Informational Writing Summarizing Framework

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____

etc. _____

Name _____

Water Fowl Growing Out of Control

Genre: Opinion Writing

Swans, geese and other water birds live for many years and one pair of water fowl can easily grow to 50-100 birds within five to seven years. The birds are a treasured natural resource however, they can easily get out of control. They can damage ponds, lakes and golf courses. Some people want to destroy these birds but, in my opinion, people can use decoys, modify the habitat or stop feeding these animals to control the population in a humane way.

Decoys can be used to scare the birds away from a water area. Bright scarecrows made of human clothing that move in the breeze can be used to keep away geese or swans. Moving them every several days is most effective so the birds do not get used to them. I would support the use of helium balloons as well. Painted with large eyes and tethered to the edge of the pond, these decoys deter water birds from nesting nearby. Another effective way of removing the water birds is to get a dog. Dogs will scare the birds by running or barking. The birds will not nest if they fear the dog will come near.

Water birds need a protected habitat to nest, so modifying that habitat can be effective. One thing I suggest is to remove the vegetation on the edge of the water. If there is no protection, the birds will not stay. I am in favor of replacing grass with shrubs. Swans and geese like the tall grass but cannot nest in a shrub. There are also overhead grid wires that can be installed to keep the birds from landing in the water. These would be effective for a large pond or lake.

(continued)

If you and your neighbors stop feeding the water birds they will move away. These animals get used to being fed and when that stops, they will find another place to live. I support a town law that does not allow feeding of these birds on town property. This will keep the parks clean and help the birds live in nature. The birds rely on the humans and then can't support themselves. This causes them to be challenged in the wild.

Water birds can be a beautiful addition to a water park, however they can also destroy the park. In my opinion, they can be kept under control with some humane efforts like using decoys, changing the environment and discouraging humans from feeding them. These positive steps can keep the water areas clean and natural, while keeping the water birds safe.

Opinion Writing Summarizing Framework

TOPIC: _____

MAIN REASON #1: _____

MAIN REASON #2: _____

MAIN REASON #3: _____

Name _____

NARRATIVE, INFORMATIONAL, OR OPINION?

Read the following paragraphs. For each paragraph determine whether it is a **Narrative story**, written to entertain the reader, **Informational text**, written to give information, or **Opinion**, which is written to express personal opinion. **Circle the correct response**. Be ready to explain your answer.

1. Mikail shuffled his feet towards the court. He was worried about the other team. They had the tallest third grader on the team, Deanna. She could almost dunk the basket. As they got ready for the starting tip off, Mikail gasped. He saw Deanna hobble in on crutches. What happened, he wondered.

Narrative Informational Opinion

2. Basketball is played on a court with five players on each team. James Naismith is credited as the inventor of the game. Back then, there were nine players on each team. Today, the NBA is the professional league for basketball and has helped popularize this sport around the world. One of the most famous professional players is Michael Jordan.

Narrative Informational Opinion

3. I dug into the fresh black earth and pulled up a worm. Placing it into the jar along with the others, I was ready to head to the fishing pond. I packed up my jar and grabbed my fishing pole. "These juicy specimens will make a nice meal for a fish," I said.

Narrative Informational Opinion

4. My favorite type of worm is the simple one you find right in your garden. They have a long tube-like body and are plump and juicy. They work to make the garden soil rich with nutrients. These invertebrates should be protected and even cultivated for their beneficial work.

Narrative Informational Opinion

BONUS: Go back and look at the narrative paragraphs. Are they **CHARACTER/ PROBLEM/SOLUTION** or **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE** narratives?

Name _____

NAME THE GENRE! (1)

Read the following paragraphs. For each paragraph determine whether it is a Narrative, Informational, or Opinion piece. If it's a narrative, do you think it's a character, problem, solution narrative or a personal experience narrative? **Circle your answers and be ready to explain them.**

1. Lighthouses make sailing safer. Sailors must be careful near rocky shores. They could crash into the rocks if it's foggy. Lighthouses light the way so the sailors can see the rocks. They are especially helpful when it's dark or stormy.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

2. I think the most beautiful lighthouse can be found in Chatham, MA. It has a rich history and people line up to take a tour. The water off Chatham has strong currents and a rocky ledge. If you're ever in Cape Cod, this lighthouse is definitely one to see.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

3. I ran up to the large structure and ducked inside. The lighthouse stairs were spiraled and went all the way to the top where there was a viewing porch. "I'll race you," I shouted to my brother who was close on my heels. We ran up and out to the deck. I gasped for air and turned toward the sea. The view was spectacular. The blue of the ocean glittering with sunlight took my breath away.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

Name _____

NAME THE GENRE! (2)

Read the following paragraphs. For each paragraph determine whether it is a Narrative, Informational, or Opinion piece. If it's a narrative, do you think it's a character, problem, solution narrative or a personal experience narrative? **Circle your answers and be ready to explain them.**

1. "AHHH!" I yelled as I almost stepped on a large snake. We were vacationing in the Tennessee Blue Ridge Mountains, home to lots of wildlife, and I was way ahead of the rest of my family. I stopped short right in front of the slithering beast. It had a triangular head with copper colored markings that looked like an hourglass. I knew from the trail guide that copperhead snakes were in these woods, I just didn't know that I was going to find one. Worse yet, it looked like it was about to strike.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

2. Tennessee is an East South-Central state and one of my favorites to visit. The Mississippi River runs right through the state. There are two major mountain ranges - the Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains. These are home to plenty of wildlife. I believe this makes Tennessee a great place to visit at any time of year.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

3. The city of Nashville, Tennessee is famous for its music. People from all over the world come to Nashville, TN to hear country legends and new chart-toppers. The concert venue, The Grand Ole Opry, is famous for the many musicians who have played there over the years. Every year, hundreds of people make the trek to Nashville, TN to see live music shows on this iconic stage.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

Name _____

NAME THE GENRE! (3)

Read the following paragraphs. For each paragraph determine whether it is a Narrative, Informational, or Opinion piece. If it's a narrative, do you think it's a character, problem, solution narrative or a personal experience narrative? **Circle your answers and be ready to explain them.**

1. For those who like to travel, there are many modes of transportation to choose from. My favorite way to travel is by train. Historically, trains were used to carry products from one place to the next. It was the fastest mode of transportation at the time. Now, we have highways and airplanes to get you there in record time. My opinion, however, is that train travel is not only fast but relaxing. Watching the scenery go by, listening to the sound of the tracks, and stopping every now and then to see a new place is my choice for taking a journey.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

2. There are many kinds of trains. These transportation vehicles carry people to various places. They have cars with seats for people to sit on and are called passenger trains. Some trains carry products. These are called freight trains and they carry steel, lumber, or other products. Each train has many different kinds of cars. The cars are attached by steel cords. There can be refrigerator cars for cold food, boxcars to carry furniture, and even a tanker car to carry oil. The last car of course is the caboose.

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

3. Clickity clack! Clickity Clack! The sound of the train running over the tracks was like music to my ears. It was my first visit to the city and I was excited to see everything. Looking out the window, we passed through small towns with grassy areas. The landscape began to change as we got closer to the city. Larger buildings and less grass let me know it was close. Just then, the train car went dark as we entered a long tunnel. My heart pounded with anticipation. At the end of this tunnel we would be in the city!

Narrative Informational Opinion

If narrative - Character/problem/solution or Personal Experience?

Name _____

The Lost Treasure

I dropped to my knees and peered under the bed. Pulling the sheets and blankets off my bed, I frantically searched through the pile. I checked my drawers and closet. Nothing! Boy was my grandfather going to be mad! He trusted me with the ancient relic, the arrowhead he found in the desert outside his pueblo where he grew up, and I lost it!

It was small and sharp with pointy edges in the shape of a triangle. The stone fit perfectly in my palm. When you looked closely, you could see flecks of silver mixed in with the gray tone of the rock. Grandpa said it was used back in the days when Native Americans tribes would hunt for food. I placed it carefully on the shelf over my desk but now it was gone!

My lower lip began to quiver and I wiped at a tear from my eye. How would I tell my grandfather? What would he say? Would he be disappointed? I decided to keep up the search at least until he got here.

I reached over and pulled my bed apart one more time. This time I shook out the covers, crawled under and over them, but still found nothing. I climbed under the bed. It was dark and there were some left over blocks from one of my creations, a few pieces of cracker crumbs from snack, and a marble. No arrowhead in sight! I sighed and turned toward the dresser. "Maybe it fell in here," I silently whispered. The drawer held all of my treasures. I pushed aside my marble collection, a few baseball cards, the golf ball I found outside and bits and pieces of my string ball. Still no arrowhead!

Just then I heard the front door open. My mom squealed and I heard her welcome my grandpa in. I hung my head! Grandpa lived far away in the desert. The last time he was here was at the holidays when he gave me the arrowhead. No time like the present, I thought and turned the knob of my bedroom door.

(continued)

Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a glint of silver. Could it be, I wondered. I quickly walked to the other side of the room and pushed the chair away from the desk. I crouched down low to get a better look and saw the corner of something gray. Crawling under my desk, I reached out and scooped the item into my hand. My heart fell! Just a rock from my rock collection!

Reluctantly I shuffled out of my room and down the stairs to see Grandpa smiling that huge grin. I ran into his arms and sobbed, “I lost your arrowhead!” He patted my back and glanced over at my mom. She rushed over to me and spun me around. There on the fireplace mantle was the arrowhead in a glass case. My mom found it under my bed when she cleaned my room and decided to have it mounted and preserved for me. I breathed a sigh of relief and smiled. Grandpa and I picked it up and looked at it. It was beautiful. The frame had some ancient carvings and the arrowhead sat on a cushion of black velvet.

I told Grandpa how frantic I was when I realized the arrowhead was missing. He laughed when he saw my room turned upside down. This one-of-a-kind relic deserved an honored place on my shelf. Treasures come in all shapes and sizes and this one was truly special.

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

This story is about _____ .

The problem/adventure/experience was that _____

_____ .

The problem was solved, adventure/experience concluded when _____

_____ .

What is the theme of the story? _____

(Go back and highlight the sections of the story that indicate the theme.)

Name _____

Jose's Desert Adventure

Jose ran from his pueblo and flagged down the bus driver. He was too late! The bus was gone and he was left with nothing much to do. His friends were miles away at the Reservation school.

Jose looked out over the golden-brown desert. There was a hot dry wind blowing and he squinted in the bright sun. The sky was a bright, cloudless blue. He could feel the sun beating down on his back. He shielded his face to keep the hot sand from blowing into his eyes. The plaza was empty and he was bored!

Suddenly something out beyond the plaza caught his eye. There was a small cloud of dust over near the tall, spikey saguaro cactus that towered over the sand dunes. Jose peered in that direction and caught sight of something small and brown. It was moving in a hurry, kicking up sand and rushing around in circles. "What in the world?" asked Jose.

He walked cautiously toward the cactus, moving only his feet the way his grandfather had taught him. He barely disturbed a grain of sand as he walked. The small brown whirlwind circled around closer to Jose. He knelt down for a better look.

Then he saw it! It had brown and gray feathers, a long neck, and small beady black eyes. Its feet were moving at a great speed and his neck was thrust forward. Jose's heart pounded. He had never seen a road runner up close before. Grandfather would be so happy. Road runners are considered good luck!

Suddenly the road runner took off and Jose followed him. Deeper into the desert they went. Jose stopped to catch his breath and realized he was hot and thirsty. Where would this chase lead, he wondered?

(continued)

Just then, Jose saw the familiar red rocks of the canyon. His grandfather had taken him this way before. The road runner paused, turned toward a tall cactus, and then ducked into the underbrush. Jose followed. Creeping on his hands and knees, Jose peered into the brush. He couldn't believe what he saw! There on the ground was a gray, pointy rock. It had sharp edges and fit nicely in his palm. It was an arrowhead! The road runner had led him to this treasure! He and his grandfather had been looking for an arrowhead in the desert for a long time. He picked it up and slipped it into his pocket.

He crept slowly out of the brush and turned to go. Pausing, he nodded and said, "Thank you!" The road runner was already gone.

Jose walked back across the desert the way he had come. He couldn't wait to show Grandfather! Together they would put the arrowhead in a special place back at his pueblo home. It would always remind him of the mysterious bird and of a day that had started badly, but ended in a wonderful way! A day to treasure!

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

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What is the theme of the story? _____

(Go back and highlight the sections of the story that indicate the theme.)

Name _____

The Best Birthday Celebration of All

I dragged my feet and hung my head, making my way up to the long winding path to my aunt's lake house. I barely noticed the sun glinting off the crystal blue water or the cloudless sky above me. All I could think of was how I really wanted to be home. It was my birthday week, and I'd been looking forward to my annual party with my best friends at the bowling alley. Closing my eyes for a moment, I could almost hear the powerful crash of the weighty ball against the pins, and the exciting shouts of encouragement from my pals. Tripping over a tree root woke me from my daydream of spares and strikes, pizza, soda, cake, and presents. I caught my balance and trudged on. As much as I loved my Aunt Claire, and as much as I enjoyed spending time at the lake, I just wished I were at my annual bowling alley celebration instead.

"How could they?" I muttered, thinking of my mom and dad and this last-minute plan of theirs. When I'd asked if we'd have my party the day I got back, Mom said, "We'll see." I know what "we'll see" means. It's a mom's nice way of saying no! She'd driven me up here and dropped me off, just like that! Just then, I caught sight of Aunt Claire's cottage, a sliver of a soft yellow between the leafy green trees along the path. I loved my aunt – she was fun-loving, and always had something new and entertaining up her sleeve. I knew her wide, generous smile by heart, and pushed myself to replace the sulky frown on my face with something that wouldn't shout "poor me." No matter what, I didn't want to hurt her feelings.

As I got closer, the cottage door flew open and Aunt Claire stepped out. "There you are!" she exclaimed. "Come on in for lunch – you must be hungry!" I was hungry – for pizza, I thought regretfully. I forced a smile and climbed the steps. Aunt Claire threw an arm around my shoulders and ushered me in. Past the kitchen, which was strange. She walked me toward the living room.

"Where are we go...?" Before I could finish my sentence – "SURPRISE!"

Out they jumped from behind chairs and around corners. My eyes must have bugged out of my head, judging from the way Aunt Claire and all my friends laughed. They were all here, even Mom and Dad! All the guests thumped me on the back, shouting, "Happy Birthday!" The deck off the

(continued)

living room, just visible through the big glass doors, was strewn with red streamers. Boxes of pizza were stacked on the table alongside festive party plates and napkins. A huge mountain of wrapped presents sat in the corner. “Dig in, everyone!” Aunt Claire called. We flocked to the pizza, whipping out slice after slice, and serving ourselves generous helpings of chips and cookies on the side.

When we finished up the last of the pizza, we looked at Aunt Claire, as if to say, “Now what?”

“Look,” she said, pointing. Uncle Steve was bringing the boat around to the pier. “Bring your bathing suits and towels, kids”, she yelled as she marched us out. We ran like banshees toward the boat and slipped into our orange life jackets, pushing our way aboard. Uncle Steve threw a huge black inner tube overboard. It dangled behind the boat by a sturdy white nylon cord. “The birthday boy is first!” my uncle proclaimed as I jumped into the water, swam to the comfy, plump tube and climbed in, like a bird in a nest. “Ready?”

I barely had time to answer before he took off, zooming across the lake, with me enjoying the speed and the spray of the wild ride, my friends cheering me on! My heart raced and I shrieked in delight.

After my incredible tube ride, I watched as each of my friends had a turn. A smile remained plastered on my face as I thought about the best birthday celebration ever. This was a birthday I’d never, ever forget. How grateful I felt to Aunt Claire, Uncle Steve, and Mom and Dad for the biggest surprise in my life! And next year, I’m hoping for another lakefront birthday party!

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

This story is about _____ .

The problem/adventure/experience was that _____

_____ .

The problem was solved, adventure/experience concluded when

_____ .

_____ .

Name _____

The Magical Bike

I ran out to the garage with my helmet in hand. It was a great day for a bike ride! I strapped on my helmet, kicked up the kickstand, swung my leg over the bar, and started to pedal.

I rode down the street, pedaling as fast as I could, enjoying the speed and the wind in my hair. My neighbors waved, but I concentrated on steering.

Suddenly, something strange began to happen. The pedals started to get warm and began to vibrate. My mouth fell open as the handlebars began to glow! My knuckles turned white as I clenched the soft grips of the shimmering bars tightly. WHIRRR! WHIRRR! The bike tires whistled as sparks began to shoot from the spokes like Fourth of July sparklers. In the blink of an eye, the mysterious two-wheeler rose from the pavement. I gulped and swallowed a scream as the bike continued up and away hovering over buildings and trees. The strange new powers of my pedal-driven vehicle had me wondering if I was in danger. As I looked down, I couldn't help but notice the checkered pattern of the land below resembling my favorite game board. In less than a minute, the bike had gone rolling along the street, to soaring high in the sky. I reached up with one hand to touch the puffy white clouds, when to my surprise, the land below was gone, replaced by a gigantic field of cotton. "This must be what it is like flying above the clouds in an airplane," I said. I watched a flock of birds fly by, flapping their wings and chirping to one another. "None of my friends will ever believe me when I tell them I flew above the clouds beside the birds on my magical bicycle!" I exclaimed. I shivered and goosebumps began to appear on my arms, as I suddenly realized the temperature was quickly changing. I could smell a faint scent of rain. "What now?" I worried. The strange machine must have heard my chattering teeth and felt my

(continued)

pounding heart because as the panic worsened, the bike dipped under the cloudy skies and descended toward solid ground. It wasn't long before my feet rested on the pavement again.

I pinched my cheeks and patted the bar below my bicycle seat. Surprisingly, I was awake. I breathed a heavy sigh and hugged the handlebars of my enchanted cycle.

I'll never forget the thrill of my adventure on a magical bike. Next time, I'm going to bring along a sweater and a camera, just to prove to my friends that I really do have a supernatural bike. I only hope there is a next time!

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

This story is about _____ .

The problem/adventure/experience was that _____

_____ .

The problem was solved, adventure/experience concluded when

_____ .

Name _____

Cruising the Alaskan Shore (I)

My name is Tim and this is a story about my cruise. I went with my parents on an Alaskan cruise. We packed all of our stuff and drove to the airport. Mom said, "Tim did you get all of your things?"

I said, "Yes!" We rode on a plane to the place where the cruise started. We took all of our suitcases to our room on the ship and unpacked them. Then we decided to go to the deck and see what was going on. We saw pretty ice mountains and pretty water. Then we went to eat. The food was good. After that, we went back to our room and went to sleep. The next day we went back to the deck and looked at the water. We saw some whales jumping out of the water. Then I took a picture of the whales to show my friends. They would like my pictures. Next, we heard the whales make a loud sound. After that, we went back inside because it was cold. We ate again and went to our room.

We did the same thing the next day. Then it was time to go home and we packed our stuff and went back to the airport. We flew to our home and drove to our house. That is my story about my cruise to Alaska. I hope you liked my story.

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

This story is about _____ .

The problem/adventure/experience was that _____

_____ .

The problem was solved, adventure/experience concluded when

_____ .

Name _____

Cruising the Alaskan Shore (2)

"Mom, look at that ice mountain!" I gasped as I stood staring out from the deck of the ship. I reached in my coat pocket and grabbed my new camera. This was one picture I didn't want to miss. My friends would never believe what I was witnessing, unless I brought back proof.

The natural ice sculpture loomed above the water, towering from the surface of the ocean and bending toward the ship. In the middle of the bluish white glacier was a hole, seemingly carved out on purpose. Drifts of snow covered the top of the statue like a white carpet. As the ship moved through the water, the iceberg appeared to be moving with us; however, I knew that was not possible. I clicked the button on the camera! "Perfect," I concluded as I viewed my picture through the viewfinder lens. It was just as magnificent in the small photo as it was looking directly at it.

The ship sailed on, encircling the monument. In the middle of the icy cold water, between the glacier and the ship, I noticed a circular swell of water, as though something was rising from the ocean floor. I wonder what's going on, I thought as I walked to the other side of the ship's deck. A shiver ran down my spine and my mind began to exaggerate my concern over the mysterious swell. To my surprise, the captain came over the loud speaker and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Look to the left side of the ship and you will be able to observe a pod of whales jumping and swimming alongside the boat." "Whew!" I sighed and quickly ran back to the other side of the deck. I couldn't believe my eyes. Jumping out of the water was the most enormous animal I'd ever seen. Its body was long and sleek, gliding up and out of the water in full view of the ship's spectators. A loud roar resonated through the crowd as we looked in amazement at the magnificent creature, fanning its tail and dipping under the deep sea with very little splash. One after the other, whales leaped out of the water and dove in again putting on an outstanding show for all to see. My heart leapt with every jump and my eyes stayed glued to the huge

(continued)

mammals. I was so mesmerized I almost forgot to capture the moment with a picture. As I tried to snap a few photos, my hands were shaking in disbelief. I quickly took 5 or 6 pictures and stuffed the camera back in my pocket, not wanting to miss one upward vault of the flawless creatures. I watched for what felt like an hour, my feet not moving an inch from their initial spot. And then, as quickly as they had appeared, the whales swam away, leaving us longing for more.

One thing was for sure, the whales would be the highlight of my Alaskan cruise. I'll never forget those majestic creatures catapulting out of the water and diving back into the ocean with unbelievable grace and beauty. I can still feel my body trembling in awe at the sight of those huge beasts. My hope is that someday I can return to Alaska to relive this awesome experience.

SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK:

This story is about _____ .

The problem/adventure/experience was that _____

_____ .

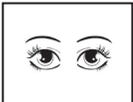
The problem was solved, adventure/experience concluded when

_____ .

Name _____

TURNING QUESTIONS INTO RESPONSES

An easy way to answer response to text questions is to turn the important parts of the question into the beginning of your response. Look at the questions below, followed by the beginning of a response. Using this technique ensures that your answers will be written in complete sentences. Your teacher will select a story for you to reread. Then, answer each of these questions about the story, by turning the question into the beginning of your response.



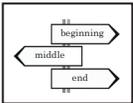
1. Who was *the main point of view character*?

The main point of view character was _____
 _____.



2. What was *the setting*?

The setting was _____
 _____.



3. What was *the problem or adventure*? (plot)

The problem or adventure was _____
 _____.



4. What was *the main character's motivation*?

(What did the main character want?)

The main character wanted _____
 _____.



5. What caused *the conflict in the story*?

(Who or what is standing in the way of the main character's motivation?)

The conflict in the story was _____
 _____.



6. What was the theme of *the story*?

The theme of the story was _____
 _____.

(continued)

KICK IT UP A NOTCH!

To improve the writing, try varying the way each of the sentences begin, from the previous page. On another sheet of paper, or at the keyboard, REVISE the complete sentences you created by using the sentence starters below.

Character/Point of view:

The author introduces us to _____, our main character.

We immediately meet (main character's name) _____,
the hero of the story.

Setting:

The story took place _____.

The story was set _____.

Plot:

The plot centers around _____.

As the story continues we find _____.

Motivation:

The protagonist, (main character's name) wanted _____.

(Main character's name) was trying to _____.

Conflict:

The author created tension when _____ (conflict) _____.

The problem began when _____.

Theme:

The big idea of the story was _____.

This story was all about _____.

Name _____

Austin's Lunch

Genre: Character/Problem/Solution

Austin and Hayley stepped onto the pathway leading to the pond. They carried a cooler along with a blanket to spread on the grass. Chattering as they walked, you could hear the excitement in their voices about the first picnic of spring.

The sky was a perfect shade of blue and the air was just warm enough for a light sweater. The fat, red robins were out and feasting on juicy worms as Austin and Hayley walked by. Bees buzzed, daffodils poked their heads out of the ground, and the leaves in the trees were starting to unfurl.

As they rounded the corner to the pond, they stopped short. What in the world was that they wondered? Just ahead, on the edge of the pond sat a large bird. It was white with a long neck and a red colored bill. Above its bill was a black mask. "A swan," whispered Austin. Oh no thought Hayley. She murmured, "Swans can be a little aggressive especially if they're nesting."

They approached the pond area cautiously. Hayley hanging back as Austin led the way. They tiptoed around to the wide area of grass on the opposite end of the pond and spread out their blanket. They were far enough away from the swan not to disturb it.

They both sat down cross legged and reached into the cooler. They had packed chicken sandwiches, ice cold lemonade and some orange slices. It was a feast for a king! Austin's eyes lit up when he noticed the chocolate chip cookies for dessert. "YUM!" he exclaimed and smiled. Unwrapping a sandwich, Hayley took a big bite and sighed contentedly. This was such a beautiful day, she thought. Just then, they heard a grunting noise followed by a loud hissing. Austin looked up from his lunch but didn't notice anything nearby. He unwrapped his sandwich.

Before too long, a ruffle of white feathers came into view. Could it be the swan, thought Austin? He jumped up to get a better look and that's when the bird came running full speed at him. Hayley raced over to the tree and hid behind it leaving her sandwich behind. Austin, lurched at the intruder trying to scare it away. The swan came closer, flapping its wings and making a loud trumpeting sound. "Get

(continued)

out of here!” shouted Austin, but the swan paid no attention. Its large bill opened and closed while it chased Austin around the pond. He ran around in circles holding onto his sandwich as he did. The swan was close behind.

Hayley shouted from her hiding place, “Throw the sandwich at it!” Austin just kept running. He was breathing heavily and it felt like his lungs were going to explode. This swan is really mad, he thought. As Austin got closer to the pond he noticed a large mound of grass and twigs with several pale blue eggs in the center. This must be its nesting ground. No wonder it’s so angry.

At that moment, Hayley launched her sandwich at the swan and Austin followed suit. The swan turned and picked at the sandwiches, giving them time to grab the rest of their picnic and race down the path away from the pond. “Phew! We made it,” gasped Hayley, when they were far enough away. Austin panted and his shirt was stuck to his skin. “That was a close one!” he wheezed.

They ran back towards home as quickly as possible and collapsed on the front porch giggling. This perfect day turned out to be quite an adventure. “You should have seen your face when that swan ran towards you,” Hayley laughed. Austin laughed and wondered if maybe he should have thrown that sandwich earlier. His heart raced as he recalled the attack. “How about a picnic on the porch?” asked Hayley, “It’s definitely safer than the pond today.” Austin agreed and set out the blanket.



Name _____

PUTTING A CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE TOGETHER

An easy way to write a constructed response to a text is to turn the important parts of the story into a paragraph one sentence at a time and add the evidence from the text. Your teacher will select a story for you to reread. Then, answer each question, one at a time, to create a full paragraph. The first sentence in the paragraph is started for you. Remember to turn the question into the response and use good sentence variety. Sentence starters are available at the bottom of the page.

TASK: Identify each literary element from the story _____, and write a paragraph. Provide evidence from the story for each answer.

Literary Elements:

Main point of view character: Who was the main character(s)?

Setting: Where and when did the story take place?

Plot: What was the problem or adventure?

Motivation: What did the main character(s) want?

Conflict: What kept the main character(s) from getting what he/she/they wanted?

Theme: What was the big idea of the story?

The story _____ has many literary elements. _____

Sentence Starters for providing evidence:

The reader discovers _____.

We recognize _____.

The author introduces _____, the main character.

The plot centers around _____.

As the story unfolds we find out _____.

_____ (main character) wants _____.

The problem began _____.

Clearly, the theme was _____.

Name _____

DIGGING DEEPER – BE A TEXT DETECTIVE!

To get the most out of a story, it's important to not just think about the action, but to consider why things happened in the story. What might the character's feelings have to do with it? What caused the character to feel as she or he felt? How did you feel about the events in the story? What about the things an author implies but doesn't actually explain? This involves looking for evidence in the text. Look at the questions below. Your teacher will select a story for you to reread. Then, on another sheet of paper or at the keyboard, answer each of the questions below about the story using the sentence starters provided. You may also turn each question into a response by repeating the key parts.

1. **In the story, how did (*character*) feel about his/her situation?**
2. **How do you know how (*character*) felt?**
3. **Did you ever have a similar experience? When?**
4. **How did you feel during your experience?**
5. **What did (*character*) learn from his/her experience?**
6. **What did you learn from your experience?**
7. **Why did you empathize with (*character*)?**

**Sentence Starters:**

1. **It was clear ___ was feeling ___ because___.**
2. **This was evidenced by_____.**
3. **I understand the way_____ felt because_____.**
4. **I'll never forget the time _____ when_____.**
5. **A similar experience I had was_____.**
6. **I could really empathize with her/him because_____.**
7. **It's easy to understand why_____ because_____.**
8. **Although I never had an experience like this, I can imagine_____.**
9. **This scene kept my interest because_____.**



Name _____

THEME IN STORY

Read each passage and determine the theme of the story. Write the theme on the line provided then, go back to the passage and put a check mark above the sentence or sentences that show the evidence of the theme. (Remember: The theme is the big idea of the passage and the evidence proves that the theme you identified is valid.)

1. Dominique stared up at the sheer rock face. It would be a difficult climb but she had been practicing for weeks. The first time she tried to climb, she fell flat on her face. “Good thing I’m strapped in,” she said to her instructor. Lifting her foot and placing it into the first indent in the rock, she felt her heart start to race. Next, she placed her hand in the handhold and hoisted herself up. Inch by inch she climbed. Sweat dripped down her face and clouded her eyes. “Don’t look down,” she commanded herself. Hand, foot, hand, foot up and up she went. She reached her hand up and pulled herself up and over the edge, landing on the top of the mountain.

Theme: _____

2. Louis grabbed the controller and started the game. George grabbed his controller as well. “This old thing,” George complained as he started banging it on the table. Louis had his dad’s old Wii gaming system. “My Xbox 360 is way better!” George exclaimed. Louis hung his head and just sighed. He had asked his dad for a new system for his birthday last year, but dad was having a difficult time at work and could not spend the money just now. When his other friend, Mikail, was over they played for hours, laughing and tumbling over each other when they tried to play bowling or golf. Mikail did not have a gaming system at all and loved to spend time at Louis’ house. Maybe I should invite Mikail more often, he thought, this Wii system is certainly better than nothing!

Theme: _____

3. Erin grabbed her cleats and threw them into the car. “I’m not going back,” she shrieked. Mom silently drove away from the field and glanced into the back seat. Erin stared out the window, her arms folded across her chest, and tears starting to slide down her face. “I’m just not good enough!” she cried. This soccer practice had been hard. Lots of running and drills. Erin was exhausted! Mom looked back over her shoulder and quietly said, “Erin you can quit the team, but not until the season is over.” Erin knew mom was right. She was the only goalie they had! What would they do without her?

Theme: _____

4. The sneakers were certainly bright. They were just the thing he needed to complete the outfit. They were neon yellow with gray laces. Josh knew that his friends might not understand how much he loved these shoes. They all wore black or white sneakers. But these felt right! I’ll just have to wear them and hold my head up high, he thought.

Theme: _____

Name _____

**NARRATIVE SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK &
TEMPLATE FOR THEME**

This story is about _____ .

The problem, adventure, or experience was that _____

_____ .

The problem was solved/adventure, experience concluded when

_____ .

The theme of this story is _____ .

We see this when _____ ,

the main character, _____ .

This was also demonstrated when _____

_____ .

The reader also recognizes the theme in the story when _____

_____ .

Name _____

**FRAMING QUESTIONS FOR NARRATIVE STORIES
MAKE -IT-YOUR-OWN**

 Story

 Author

1. Who is the main character in the story? _____
2. Where is the story set? _____
3. What is the tone or mood of the story? _____
4. What is the main character's problem, challenge or adventure? _____

5. What is the main character's motivation? _____

6. Who or what stands in the way of the main character's motivation? _____

7. Where does the author use suspense and/or foreshadowing? _____

8. How does the main character feel about the situation? _____

9. How does the main character show his/her feelings? _____

10. How does the main character grow and change in response to story events? _____

11. What figurative language did the author use and why? _____

12. What is the theme of the story and how is it demonstrated? _____

See Sentence Starters for Responding to Literature on the following page.

BONUS: On a separate piece of paper or at the keyboard, write about what you would do if faced with a similar challenge or adventure.

(continued)

Sentence Starters for Responding to Literature

- The reader discovers that _____.
- The author reveals _____.
- _____ contributed to the story conflict.
- In this story _____.
- At the beginning it's clear that _____.
- The plot centers around _____.
- It isn't long before we discover _____.
- Clearly, the theme was _____.
- The author definitely shows _____.
- For example, _____.
- Additionally, _____.
- However, _____.
- An illustration of this _____.
- I believe _____ because _____.
- We recognize _____.
- (Character's name) was motivated by _____.
- This is evidenced by _____.
- The reader realizes _____.
- As the story unfolds, _____.
- In the story, the evidence suggests _____.
- Through the text we learn that _____.
- The main character's point of view is _____.
- We see this when _____.
- Furthermore, _____.
- From the start, _____.
- As a result, _____.
- Similarly, _____.
- From my point of view _____.