

Extreme Excitement

Well-developed narratives make readers feel as if they are in the story.



Write a narrative about an extremely exciting event or activity.

Be sure to show actions, thoughts, and feelings through dialogue and word choice.

Use the 3rd grade Narrative Writing Rubric to assess your work.

Extreme Excitement Checklist:






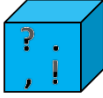

- I clearly describe the experience and characters.
- I use dialogue to show what the characters are thinking and feeling.
- I focus on my word choice.
- I use different types of sentences.



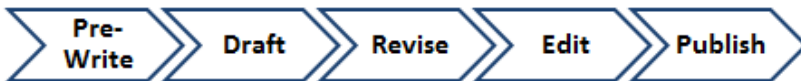
Name: _____

Grade
3

Narrative Writing

Points Possible	Requirement	Points Earned
40	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>IDEAS</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> My story makes sense and I answered the prompt with a real or imagined story. <input type="checkbox"/> I used dialogue in order to show what the characters said to one another and what they were thinking or feeling. <input type="checkbox"/> I used clear descriptions to show the reader what the characters were doing. 	
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Organization</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> There is a clear beginning, middle, and end (conclusion). 	
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Voice</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It is clear why this story was important for me to tell. 	
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Word Choice</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I used transitional words & phrases to organize my writing. 	
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sentence Fluency</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The story sounds perfect when I read aloud. <input type="checkbox"/> I used different kinds of sentences throughout my story. <input type="checkbox"/> I used the correct verb tenses throughout my story. 	
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Conventions</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I used capitals and periods correctly. <input type="checkbox"/> I used quotation marks correctly. <input type="checkbox"/> I checked to make sure I spelled each word correctly. 	
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Presentation</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> My writing is neat and can be easily read. 	

Writing Process



Teacher Comments

Editing	✓	Date	Teacher / Student Conference	
Self-Edit: I have used the checklist/rubric to edit my work.			Yes	No
Peer-Edit: _____ used the checklist/rubric to edit my writing.			Teacher Initials	Date
			Revision Decision	

Sarah, Plain and Tall

By: Patricia MacLachlan

After dinner, Sarah drew pictures to send home to Maine. She began a charcoal drawing of the fields, rolling like the sea rolled. She drew a sheep whose ears were too big. And she drew a windmill.

“Windmill was my first word,” said Caleb. “Papa told me so.”

“Mine was flower,” I said. “What was yours, Sarah?”

“Dune,” said Sarah.

“Dune?” Caleb looked up.

“In Maine,” said Sarah, “there are rock cliffs that rise to the edge of the sea. And there are hills covered with pine and spruce trees, green with needles. But William and I found a sand dune all our own. It was soft and sparkling with bits of mica, and when we were little we would slide down the dune into the water.”

Caleb looked out the window.

“We have no dunes here,” he said.

Papa stood up.

“Yes we do,” he said. He took the lantern and went out the door to the barn.

“We do?” Caleb called after him.

He ran ahead, Sarah and I following, the dogs close behind.

Next to the barn was Papa’s mound of hay for bedding, nearly half as tall as the barn, covered with canvas to keep the rain from rotting it. Papa carried the wooden ladder from the barn and leaned it against the hay.

“There.” He smiled at Sarah. “Our dune.”

Sarah was very quiet. The dogs looked up at her, waiting. Seal brushed against her legs, her tail in the air. Caleb reached over and took her hand.

“It looks high up,” he said. “Are you scared, Sarah?”

“Scared? Scared!” exclaimed Sarah. “You bet I’m not scared.”

She climbed the ladder, and Nick began to bark. She climbed to the very top of the hay and sat, looking down at us. Above, the stars were coming out. Papa piled a bed of loose hay below the pitchfork. The light of the lantern made his eyes shine when he smiled at Sarah.

“Fine?” called Papa.

“Fine,” said Sarah. She lifted her arms over her head and slid down, down, into the soft hay. She lay, laughing, as the dogs rolled beside her.

“Was it a good dune?” Called Caleb.

“Yes,” said Sarah. “It is a fine dune.”

Caleb and I climbed up and slid down. And Sarah did it three more times. At last Papa slid down, too, as the sky grew darker and the stars blinked like fireflies. We were covered with hay and dust, and we sneezed.

In the kitchen, Caleb and I washed in the big wooden tub and Sarah drew more pictures to send to William. One was of Papa, his hair curly and full of hay. She drew Caleb, sliding down the hay, his arms like Sarah’s over his head. And she drew a picture of me in the tub, my hair long and strait and wet. She looked at her drawing of the fields for a long time.

“Something is missing,” she told Caleb. “Something.” And she put it away.

“ ‘Dear William,’ “ Sarah read to us by lantern light that night. “ ‘Sliding down our dune of hay is amost as fine as sliding down the sand dunes into the sea.’ “

Caleb smiled at me across the table. He said nothing, but his mouth formed the words I had heard, too. *Our dune.*



Analyzing Author's Craft

- How many of you wanted to try sliding down a haystack after reading that scene?
- What was it in her writing that made you feel like you were there?
- How did you know what the characters were feeling?
- How did the dialogue help you to “be there”?
- How did she communicate action?
- How did she communicate thoughts?
- How did she communicate feelings?
- How did she order the events?
- How did she close the scene?