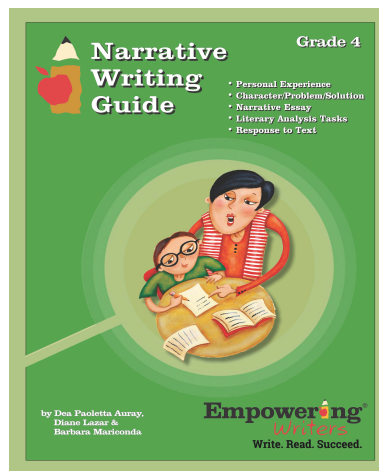




Grade 4 Narrative Writing Guide

Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 5: Main Event



www.empoweringwriters.com
1-866-285-3516

Name _____

COMPARING SUMMARIES AND FULLY ELABORATED MAIN EVENTS (1)

Read each version of a main event about baking a special cake.

1. Mom and I baked a special cake that was delicious. It was fun.
2. First we mixed the batter and then poured it in the pan. After that I licked the spoon and after that we put it in the oven and it baked and then we made the frosting and finally we ate it. It was good.
3. Mom got out the big blue bowl and smiled at me. “Are we baking a cake?” I asked. My stomach started to growl. She opened the cabinet and took out the ingredients. “You betcha,” she said. I dragged the kitchen chair across the floor and climbed up. I pulled open the drawer and took out the measuring cups and spoons. I could just imagine the layers of moist chocolate, the sweet, thick, vanilla frosting heaped on top, the chocolate chips on top of the frosting. Mom opened the fridge. I knew she’d be getting the eggs and the milk. “Let me do it!” I said. Mom nodded and I measured out the flour, the cocoa, and the sugar. CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! went the eggshells as I expertly tapped them against the edge of the bowl. I watched the jiggy yolks and slippery whites plop into the batter. Then the best part - the electric mixer! VROOMM.....My mouth watered as my hands vibrated on the handle, mixing all the goodies together. When the mixing was done Mom handed me the beaters to lick, dripping in chocolate. By the time I was done cleaning off the beaters with my tongue, Mom had the cake in the oven. “May as well clean the bowl, too,” she said. I laughed as I ran my finger all around the inside. “Hmm...hmm..” I said. After Mom took the cake out to cool we whipped up thick vanilla frosting. I dropped it on the cake like giant clouds of sugar and spread it around, then added the mini chocolate chips that I dropped on the vanilla cloud like rain. You know what we did next - the best part of all - we ate it!

Turn and Talk: Which example is a fully elaborated event? Which example is a simple summary of a main event? Which example is a grocery list of actions? Which example is the most entertaining to read? Is this a personal experience or a character/problem/solution story? How do you know? Is it realistic fiction or fantasy?

Name _____

COMPARING SUMMARIES AND FULLY ELABORATED MAIN EVENTS (2)

Read each version of a main event about breaking a window in the house.

1. My friends and I were playing basketball outside and we broke a window.

2. My friends wanted to play basketball so we picked teams. I got the ball first and shot it in the basket. Then my friend tried to make a basket and we were grabbing the ball and then it flew out of my hands and into the window. The window broke.

3. I grabbed the basketball and started dribbling in the driveway. My friends must have noticed because before I knew it we were all shooting baskets. “Let’s play a pick-up game!” I shouted. They all agreed and we picked teams. Jonas had a broken arm so he was the referee. He flipped a coin and said, “Heads or tails?” Of course, I picked heads. Sure enough it was our ball first! I snatched the basketball, stepped out of bounds, and threw it into the court to my teammate. She dribbled it down the driveway and found an open player. The other team was all over the court and our player had to dribble for a while. Soon enough, I shouted, “I’m open!” and he threw the ball my way. I looked up, saw my opening and moved to the basket. WHOOSH! I made a two-pointer. Everyone on my team gave me a high five. The other team got the ball and sent it flying down court. I scrambled to catch up and stuck my hand out to stop the progress. That’s when the trouble began. I had a firm hold on the ball, but so did the other guy. I tried to rip it out of his hands and all of a sudden, the ball went flying past my head. It was like slow motion as I watched it sail towards the picture window in the living room. A gasp went up as all of us stopped in our tracks. My heart stopped and a tear fell on my cheek. CRASH! The ball went crashing into the window and shattered it into a million pieces. There was glass on the front walkway, in the plants, and on the grass. It shone in the sunlight. Crunch, crunch went my feet as I stepped towards a clear path. How am going to clean this up, I wondered. Then it hit me, I was in deep trouble. How would I explain this to my parents? The truth is always best so I took a deep breath, walked into the house, and found my mom and dad standing in the living room surrounded by glass looking stunned.

Turn and Talk: Which example is a fully elaborated event? Which example is a simple summary? Which example is a grocery list? Which example is more entertaining to read? WHY? Is this a personal experience or character/problem/solution story? Is it realistic fiction or fantasy? How do you know?

Name _____

THE MAIN EVENT (1)

REMEMBER: • The main event is the MOST IMPORTANT part of a story!

- The main event should take up the largest amount of writing within a story.
- The main event should occur as though in slow motion - with every small detail told.
- The main event is a time for the author to show off and really entertain!

Directions: Read the summary of the main event below. Imagine what is happening. Then, in order to ELABORATE on the main event, ask:

- What did you do? (action) • What did you see, hear, feel? (description)
- What did you wonder/worry? (thoughts/feelings)
- What did you say? (dialogue/exclamation) • SOUND EFFECT?

One early evening I watched sea turtles hatch on the beach.

Name _____

THE MAIN EVENT (2)

REMEMBER: • The main event is the MOST IMPORTANT part of a story!

- The main event should take up the largest amount of writing within a story.
- The main event should occur as though in slow motion - with every small detail told.
- The main event is a time for the author to show off and really entertain!

Directions: Read the summary of the main event below. Imagine what is happening. Then, in order to ELABORATE on the main event, ask:

- What did you do? (action) • What did you see, hear, feel? (description)
- What did you wonder/worry? (thoughts/feelings)
- What did you say? (dialogue/exclamation) • SOUND EFFECT?

Kate encounters a rattlesnake while hiking, but it doesn't bite her.

Name _____

THE MAIN EVENT (3)

REMEMBER: • The main event is the MOST IMPORTANT part of a story!

- The main event should take up the largest amount of writing within a story.
- The main event should occur as though in slow motion - with every small detail told.
- The main event is a time for the author to show off and really entertain!

Directions: Read the summary of the main event below. Imagine what is happening. Then, in order to ELABORATE on the main event, ask:

- What did you do? (action) • What did you see, hear, feel? (description)
- What did you wonder/worry? (thoughts/feelings)
- What did you say? (dialogue/exclamation) • SOUND EFFECT?

I relaxed in the hammock with a refreshing drink of lemonade on a perfect summer afternoon.

Name _____

THE MAIN EVENT (4)

REMEMBER: • The main event is the MOST IMPORTANT part of a story!

- The main event should take up the largest amount of writing within a story.
- The main event should occur as though in slow motion - with every small detail told.
- The main event is a time for the author to show off and really entertain!

Directions: Read the summary of the main event below. Imagine what is happening. Then, in order to ELABORATE on the main event, ask:

- What did you do? (action) • What did you see, hear, feel? (description)
- What did you wonder/worry? (thoughts/feelings)
- What did you say? (dialogue/exclamation) • SOUND EFFECT?

I went to my first concert.

Name _____

THE MAIN EVENT - MAKE-IT-YOUR-OWN

REMEMBER: • The main event is the MOST IMPORTANT part of a story!

- The main event should take up the largest amount of writing within a story.
- The main event should occur as though in slow motion - with every small detail told.
- The main event is a time for the author to show off and really entertain!

Directions: Read the summary of the main event below. Imagine what is happening. Then, in order to ELABORATE on the main event, ask:

- What did you do? (action) • What did you see, hear, feel? (description)
- What did you wonder/worry? (thoughts/feelings)
- What did you say? (dialogue/exclamation) • SOUND EFFECT?

_____ (Sentence here)

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (1) - MAIN EVENT

Read this summary of a **main event**. It rushes through the most important part of the story way too quickly! It is BORING!

I got lost in a corn maze.

Revise this by writing a fully elaborated **main event** with a balance of action, description, dialogue, thoughts and feelings - and just for fun, a sound effect.

Be sure to:

- Show slow motion action. Ask: What did I do?
S-T-R-E-T-C-H I-T O-U-T!
- Include an exclamation. Ask: What did I exclaim?
- Show how the main character is feeling.
Ask: How did I feel?
- Include a description of the setting.
Ask: What did I see, hear, feel, smell?

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (2) - MAIN EVENT

Read this summary of a **main event**. It rushes through the most important part of the story way too quickly! It is BORING!

I took a school field trip to the science center and flew a drone.

Revise this by writing a fully elaborated **main event** with a balance of action, description, dialogue, thoughts and feelings - and just for fun, a sound effect.

Be sure to:

- Show slow motion action. Ask: What did I do?
S-T-R-E-T-C-H I-T O-U-T!
- Include an exclamation. Ask: What did I exclaim?
- Show how the main character is feeling.
Ask: How did I feel?
- Include a description of the setting.
Ask: What did I see, hear, feel, smell, or taste?

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (3) - MAIN EVENT

Read this summary of a **main event**. It rushes through the most important part of the story way too quickly! It is BORING!

I watched a bird building a nest in my flower pot.

Revise this by writing a fully elaborated **main event** with a balance of action, description, dialogue, thoughts and feelings - and just for fun, a sound effect.

Be sure to:

- Show slow motion action. Ask: What did I do?
S-T-R-E-T-C-H I-T O-U-T!
- Include an exclamation. Ask: What did I exclaim?
- Show how the main character is feeling.
Ask: How did I feel?
- Include a description of the setting.
Ask: What did I see, hear, feel, smell, or taste?

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (4) - MAIN EVENT

Read this summary of a **main event**. It rushes through the most important part of the story way too quickly! It is BORING!

I took the ice cream challenge at the Ferris Creamery and finished the whole thing.

Revise this by writing a fully elaborated **main event** with a balance of action, description, dialogue, thoughts and feelings - and just for fun, a sound effect.

Be sure to:

- Show slow motion action. Ask: What did I do?
S-T-R-E-T-C-H I-T O-U-T!
- Include an exclamation. Ask: What did I exclaim?
- Show how the main character is feeling.
Ask: How did I feel?
- Include a description of the setting.
Ask: What did I see, hear, feel, smell, or taste?

Name _____

The Secret Passageway

It was Thursday – library day for our class. We made our way into the media center, dropped our books into the return slot and headed toward the shelves. As usual I headed toward my favorite section – science fiction and fantasy. Way down the end of the aisle in a dark corner I pulled out an old musty book I’d never seen before. It was called “The Secret Passageway.” The cover showed a library. I stared at it and blinked. It wasn’t just any library – it was our library! Except for one thing. At the end of the shadowy aisle was a door. It was old fashioned, like a door from a castle.

I looked up at the end of the row where I was standing and gasped. It was at least eight feet tall and made of rough-hewn pine. A large oval brass knob seemed to invite me to grab hold and give it a turn. I glanced down at the book in my hand – the same door pictured below the book title. “The Secret Passageway?” I whispered, looking from the book to the door. To my amazement there was a sound. CREEEEEEEEEEAK! The door inched open. I took a step closer and craned my neck to sneak a look. Something seemed to be glowing behind the mysterious door.

With the book grasped in my white knuckles I tiptoed to the door. My palms were sweaty and my knees felt weak. I grabbed the knob and pushed. A strange bright orange light spilled out. I took a trembling breath and stepped inside.

I was blinded by the orange glow. The door slammed closed behind me. Unable to see, I nervously slid one foot forward. The floor dropped away! “Whoa...” I hollered. My voice echoed as I hurtled like a rocket down a sleek, winding slide. I shot forward on my back, a human toboggan, through what I realized was a huge glass tube. Bursts of light exploded outside the swirling passageway like a fireworks display. Wind whooshed in my face and I smiled. This was better than a roller coaster! More

(continued)

amazing than space flight! Down, down, down I went, amazed and amused. I still had my copy of “The Secret Passageway” pressed against my chest.

Finally, the angle of the sliding tube leveled off and the lights began to dim. I could feel myself losing momentum. I slid toward the end of the magical tube, closed my eyes and braced myself. Where in the world would this secret passageway drop me? My feet hit the ground with a thud and I opened my eyes.

“Are you planning to check out that book, or are you just going to stand there?”

I opened my eyes and found myself at the checkout desk. The librarian was staring at me.

I dropped the book on the desk and caught my breath. “I’ll...I’ll... take it,” I said. She took it, scanned it, and frowned. “Huh,” she said, “that’s funny. According to the computer we don’t have this title. It isn’t in the system. It’s as if ‘The Secret Passageway’ doesn’t exist.”

I looked behind me, peeking around the corner between the rows of shelves where I’d plucked the book. The door had disappeared! She was right. It was as if the secret passageway never existed.

I wandered away, confused and amazed, the strange book tucked under my arm. I’d read it in one sitting, that was for sure! I hoped those old yellowed pages would explain what had happened on my strange journey in the library. And I wondered if the book would reveal a way to zoom through the secret passageway and lightshow again!



Name _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS TASK: MAIN EVENT

You've read the story The Secret Passageway. Write an essay to explain how the author connects the real world with the fantasy world and why, in the main event, the reader is willing to suspend their disbelief and go along with the fantasy. Be sure to cite examples and provide evidence from the text to support your ideas.

THINK AND DISCUSS: What is the suspension of disbelief? What does an author need to do to create an effective, fully elaborated main event?

Your teacher will walk you through the following **STEPS**:

1. Read, annotate, analyze, and summarize the story.
2. Fill in the following:
 - Who is the main **point of view character**? _____
 - What is the **setting**? _____

 - What is the main character's **motivation**? (What does she/he **want**?) _____

 - What is the **conflict**? (Who or what stands in the way of the main character's motivation?) _____
 - Fill in the summarizing framework that outlines the **plot**.

This story is about _____ .
The problem / adventure / experience _____ .
The problem was solved, experience or adventure concluded when _____ .

- What is the **theme**? _____
3. Consider the task:
 - How does the author connect the real world with the fantasy world?
 - How does the reader suspend their disbelief and accept this fantasy?
 4. Your teacher will **MODEL** this process with you. You may use the sentence starters to help you cite examples in the source text.

(continued)

SENTENCE STARTERS:

- In this fantasy story _____.
- Interestingly, the author uses _____.
- Besides that, _____.
- Of course _____.
- The author brings the main event to life when _____.
- We understand that _____.
- The author shows _____.
- Readers feel _____.
- The author describes _____.
- We see that _____.
- Readers discover that _____.
- This main event _____.
- In this story _____.

Name _____

NARRATIVE EXTENSION TASK: MAIN EVENT

You've read the story The Secret Passageway in which the protagonist finds a strange book in the school library that takes him on a remarkable adventure. Imagine he found a different unusual book that would take him on a different adventure. Rewrite the plot, replacing the main event with a new event.

Fill in the summarizing framework for the original story:

This story is about _____.

The problem/adventure/experience was _____.

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

Now, imagine your revised main event. Fill in the summarizing framework indicating your changes:

This story is about _____.

The problem/adventure/experience was _____.

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

REMEMBER: Use the productive questions to fully elaborate your MAIN EVENT:

- **ACTION:** What did you do?
- **DESCRIPTION:** What did you see, hear, feel, smell, taste, sense?
- **EXCLAMATION:** What did you say?
- **THOUGHTS/FEELINGS:** What did you feel, think, wonder, worry?
- **SOUND EFFECT:** What did you hear?