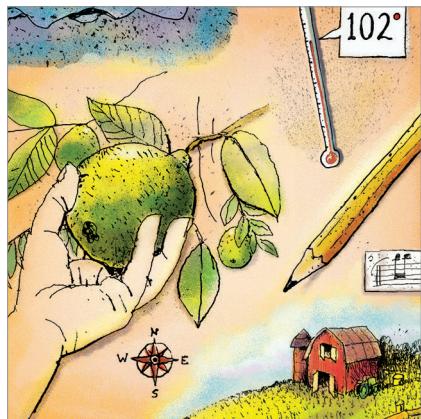


Grade 4

Unit 1: Personal Narratives



Unit-Level Essential Question

What literary elements can enhance a personal narrative?

Lessons 1–5

Guiding Question: What is the main theme of a personal narrative?

Writing Prompt: What are some tools you can use to figure out the key idea of a story?

Lessons 6–10

Guiding Question: What details can an author use to show, not tell, and why is it important to do this?

Writing Prompt: Using characters from the first two chapters of “Small Steps,” expand on the chart you made to track character traits in Chapter 3. What can you observe about characters like Karen, Dr. Wright, or Peg’s grandfather?

Lessons 11–14

Guiding Question: What makes a good conclusion to a story?

Writing Prompt: How does returning to some element from the beginning of the story contribute to an effective conclusion?

Unit 1 Culminating Activity

Consider the personal narratives you have read in this unit. How would you have written them differently? Think about the use of sensory details, dialogue, transition words, and similes/metaphors. What else would you have done to enhance these narratives?
