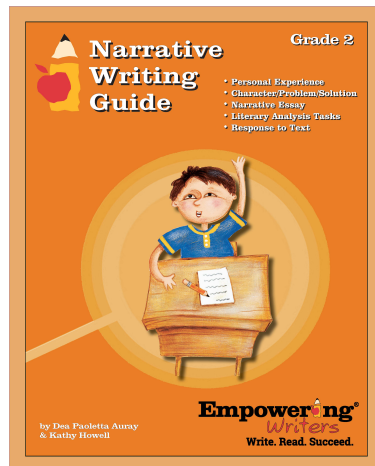




Grade 2 Narrative Writing Guide

Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 5: Main Event



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COMPARING SUMMARIES AND FULLY ELABORATED MAIN EVENTS (1)

Read each version of a main event of a fantasy about how a horse became magical. Think about which version is more entertaining and why.

1. I watched the horse turn magical.
2. I saw the horse grow wings and then it grew a unicorn's horn. After that it started to fly and then it flew all around sparkling in the sky. And then it started to glow and everyone looked at it.
3. The horse threw its head back and whinnied. It bucked as if it was afraid and I noticed something sparkly suddenly sprouting from its back. How strange, I thought. I looked more closely and gasped. Golden wings were growing from the beast's back and were gently flapping. The animal settled down a little and a cloud of sparkling dust settled around her. "What's happening?" I asked, amazed. My eyes were open wide and my heart raced. The horse began to gallop and slowly, slowly its hooves left the ground. "She's flying!" I shouted, pointing to the magnificent magical creature circling up in the sky. A crowd of people gathered around and peered up into the sky. Murmurs of "Oooh!" and "Ahhh!" could be heard. They pointed and gasped. Suddenly there was a loud thundering noise and the magical horse seemed to nod her head. We watched as a golden horn grew from her head. I felt myself tingle in excitement. The horse had become a flying unicorn before my very eyes!

Turn and Talk: Which example is a fully elaborated main 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?



Name _____

COMPARING SUMMARIES AND FULLY ELABORATED MAIN EVENTS (2)

Read each version of a main event about playing with lego blocks. Think about which one is more entertaining.

1. I built a castle with Lego blocks. It was so fun.
2. I connected the colorful Lego blocks to build a castle. Then I pretended a dinosaur crashed the castle. After that I built an even bigger palace with two stories. And then a different dinosaur stepped into the middle of my castle and collapsed the entire structure. After that, I decided to have a snack.
3. Crash! Bang! I dumped out the tub of Lego blocks on the bedroom floor and they scattered about, rolling and sliding across the slick tile. Some even slid under my bed. I hope I don't lose any of the pieces, I thought as I looked around at the strewn mess. I rummaged through the clutter and finally found all four large, square bricks and snapped them together. "I am going to build the most colossal castle ever, even bigger than my friend Tommy's," I shouted. I wonder if I have enough pieces to build it as tall as my bunkbeds? I tiptoed through the hodgepodge of Legos, gathering up all of the same-sized blocks to stack for the walls. All of a sudden, my bare foot stepped on one of the pieces and I let out a yelp. "EEEYOUCH!" Tears dripped down my face as I rubbed my foot and hobbled around dodging heaps of blocks on the messy floor. I sat down for a minute while the pain slowly eased. Then I got down on my knees and pushed the oodles of bricks into one monstrous pile with my hands. "No more stepping on Legos," I whispered. I rummaged through the mountain of blocks and separated the pieces I needed for the walls. SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! The clicking sound of Legos snapping together reminded me of a drum beat. As I connected each of the walls, I glanced out my window, and noticed the darkness. Can I finish this before bedtime, I wondered? But in no time at all, standing in the middle of my room, was the tallest Lego castle in the world. "MOM, come look at my castle," I hollered. When she walked in my room, her mouth dropped open. She was totally surprised at my sky-high masterpiece. The castle stood as tall as my bunkbed and the mismatched walls made it look old and a little spooky. A tiny striped flag flew atop the roof. "I might never take it down," I cheered, pumping my fist in the air and grinning from ear to ear. In the back of my mind though, I was thinking of how much fun it would be to knock it down with my dinosaurs.

Turn and Talk: Which version is a fully elaborated event? Which version is a simple summary? Which version is a grocery list of actions? Which one is the most entertaining to read? Why? Is this a personal experience narrative or character, problem, solution narrative? 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?

I went to a costume party.



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.
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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 played outside in the rain, jumping in a rain puddle.



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 rode my bike for the first time.



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 baked a batch of chocolate chip cookies.



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 washed the car.

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 field trip to the local bakery.

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 made a beaded necklace.

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 played tag with my friends in the neighborhood.

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 _____

A Different Kind of Camping

I looked out the window and sighed. Rain poured down. Water splashed over the windows and puddled on the ground. It beat on the roof like a drum. Tears welled up in my eyes. This was the day we were supposed to set out to the mountains on our camping trip. Now, because of the bad weather we would just stay home. “Rain, rain go away!” I shouted. But the rain kept coming down.

The door to my room opened and Mom came in. “What should we do?” she asked. Just then I had a great idea. I grabbed my sleeping bag and pillow. Mom grabbed some blankets and sheets. “We’re going camping!” I shouted. Mom grinned, “Yes! Come on!”

We pushed the table away from the wall and covered it with the sheets forming a tent. We laid the blankets, sleeping bag and pillows underneath. We were going camping in the kitchen. It was a creative, relaxing, fun way to spend a bad weather day!

I still missed going to the mountains, but we made the best of it. Our kitchen campout was a day I’ll never forget. Every time we sit at the table I think about how much fun it was to slip underneath it.

Summarizing Framework:

This is a story about _____ .

The problem, adventure, or experience was _____ .

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



Name _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS TASK: MAIN EVENT

Read the story A Different Kind of Camping where the main character has a problem and then in the main event, solves the problem. Underline the sentence that tells the problem. What is the problem in the story? How do you know? Draw a ring around the main event. How does the main character solve the problem? How do you know? Write in complete sentences to answer the questions and provide evidence to prove your answer.

Sentence Starters:

The problem was _____.

The author wrote _____.

The reader knows this because _____.

In the story _____ the problem was _____.

In the story _____ the main character solves the problem by _____.

We see this when _____.

The reader understands _____.

The main character solved the problem by _____.



Name _____

NARRATIVE EXTENSION TASK: MAIN EVENT

In the story, A Different Kind of Camping, the author wrote a summary instead of a fully elaborated main event. Underline the summary statement in the story. Use your menu of main event strategies to write a full main event, stretch it out and tell the story in slow motion

We were going camping in the kitchen.

