

The purpose of narrative writing is to tell a story. Novels and short stories are examples of narrative writing. Narrative writing is also used in fairy tales, fables, and diary entries.

Narrative writing usually has

- a beginning, middle, and end
- one or more characters
- a problem that needs to be solved

Helpful hints

1. You can write in the first person (*I went to the park*) or third person (*She went to the park*).
2. Describe the setting clearly so the reader can imagine it.
3. Describe the characters' appearance and personality.
4. Include dialogue to create interest.

See *Short Story*, page 30.

Sample Narrative Piece

Louis DesChamp suddenly rolled off the log he was sitting on. He was laughing so hard his stomach began to ache, and tears rolled down his brown cheeks. His father, Rene, had just put down his brown canoe in the lake by the short dock. When Rene stepped in, the bottom broke, and he fell right through the canoe. He stood up to his waist in water, holding a paddle, with a surprised look on his face.

It was springtime in Maniwaki, Québec, a land of forests, lakes, and rivers, which had been home to the Cree people for countless generations. It was also home to the majestic moose, loon, beaver, raven, and eagle. The rivers and lakes were full of trout, salmon, and bass, and it was a great thrill to go fishing after the spring thaws melted the ice on the lakes. Today, Louis was eager to go fishing, but seeing his father fall through the canoe was so funny.

"Hey, Dad," he called, regaining his voice, "catch any fish yet?"

Rene smiled and placed the paddle on the dock. "Help me get out of here."

From "Water Spirit"
by Joel Myerson