

Narrative Example Essays

Grades 3-4

Essay scores are produced for the following grade ranges: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Thus a third grade essay is compared to models for both third and fourth grades.

Prompt for Essays 1-3: *Write a story that you think of yourself. You may choose to write about anything you like.*

Narrative Essay 1: The Battle

Wons upon a time there was a king named king Jon and a nite named James. They where having a battle. The nite could shoot arows. The king could shot ice. When the king got hert the quean came out. She put the king to bed.

The quean was going to battle. She had fire powers.

The nite won.

Everybody cheerd.

Annotation: Adding more detail to this story is the best way to improve it.

Narrative Essay 2: The Battle

Once upon a time there was a king named King Manas. He was rich and lived in huge castle. King Manas was a very happy king, and his wife, Queen Lisa, was also very happy. They were good rulers.

One day a knight, Sir James, came to their castle. Sir James was very famous because he was very good shooting arrows. He thought he was very special because he was so famous. He decided he needed a better place to live and more money. He thought he could get King Manas's castle and money, and then he would be set.

He told King Manas that they would have a war. But King Manas did not want his soldiers hurt, so he told Sir James that he would fight him in a battle alone. King Manas had a weapon that threw spears of ice. That is what he used in battle. But Sir James was too quick with his arrows, and hit King Manas in the leg with one.

Queen Lisa was so mad! She had the king put to bed and called the doctor. Then she called all King Manas's soldiers and went out to fight Sir James. Queen Lisa had her own special powers. She could send fire through her hands. Sir James was so surprised when Queen Lisa came out to fight him that he told her he was sorry, and would not fight any more. Queen Lisa told Sir James that he could live with her and the king from then on and that they would share their gold with him. Then King Manas got better and everybody lived happy ever after.

Annotation: The added details in this essay make a big difference. The reader has a better understanding of the events.

Narrative Essay 3: The Battle

Once upon a time there was a king named King Manas. He was rich and lived in huge castle. The castle was on a beautiful mountain and was surrounded by flowers and birds of all kinds. King Manas was a very happy king, and his wife, Queen Lisa, was also very happy. They were good rulers of their people.

One summer day a knight, Sir James, came to King Manas and Queen Lisa's castle. Sir James was very famous because he was very good at shooting arrows. He thought he was very special because he was so famous. He became conceited. He decided he needed a better place to live and more money. He thought he could get King Manas's castle and money, and then he would be set.

He told King Manas that they would have a war. But King Manas did not want his soldiers hurt, so he told Sir James that he could have some of his money if he would go away without fighting. Sir James refused, so the king decided he would fight him in a battle alone. King Manas had a weapon that threw spears of ice. The good part was that it would not hurt anyone badly. That is what he used in battle. But Sir James was too quick with his arrows, and hit King Manas in the leg with one.

Queen Lisa was so mad! She had the king put to bed and called the doctor. The doctor put a bandage on the king's leg and told him to rest. In the meantime, Queen Lisa called all King Manas's soldiers and went out to fight Sir James. Queen Lisa had her own special powers. She could send fire through her hands. Sir James was surprised when Queen Lisa came out to fight him. He was even more surprised when he saw the fire come out of her hands. He decided it was not a good idea to fight, so he told her he was sorry, and would not fight any more. Queen Lisa told Sir James that he could live with her and the king from then on and that they would share their gold with him. Then King Manas got better and everybody lived happy ever after.

Annotation: This essay is organized and has plenty of interesting details. The essay might be made even better by explaining why Queen Lisa would forgive Sir James and let him live with the King and her.

Prompt for Essays 4-7: Write a story about a time you had fun. Why did you have so much fun?

Narrative Essay 4: The Zoo

One day I went to the zoo with my cousin and we ate ice cream and gave peanuts to the elephants and there were monkeys and giraffes too. But it was hot at the zoo and I felt bad for the bears that had heavy fur but they had water in the rock place where they were and the dolphins were swimming in the water by the bridge. The lions looked sleepy and then we came home.

Annotation: This essay needs more development. Giving more information about the animals, how they looked, how they acted, and what they ate, would be more interesting. It would also make this essay much better.

Narrative Essay 5: The Zoo

One day I was eating breakfast and my mom we were going to the zoo. My brother and I both said yes! Cohen and I could not wait to see the elephant's. They are huge! One came over to us. It was so big I was scared at first! Then we got to rub it's trunk Then we saw the geraffe's. Talk about tall! They look just like they do in picture's with their necks up in the tree branches. They have black tongues. Then we saw the monkey's. There were a lot of them in the trees and climing. I saw baby a monkey. The monkey's were real-ly funny. Then we were thirsty, so we got a drink and went to see the lion's. The lion's were sleepy looking. There was a big one with a mane and another one lying there in the grass. The tiger's were beautiful! They were walking back and forth in front of their cage. Then we went to the water area and saw the dophin's and the seal's. I love dophin's. The dophin's were swimming around Then we saw the snakes and turtles and the bug's. I don't like snakes, but my brother love them. Then we got in the car and my mom asked what our best thing was and I said the dophin's and Cohen said the snakes. It was so fun. Then we drove home and had supper.

Annotation: The author added details to the essay, but the essay still reads like a list. The author should try to "show" the reader with words what it was like at the zoo.

Narrative Essay 6: The Zoo

One hot summer day I was eating breakfast and my mom said, "Would you like to go to the zoo today?" I jumped up and yelled! It had been a long time since we had been at the zoo. My brother and I both said, "Yes!" It took us two hours to drive there, and then we had to buy tickets and get some food for the animals. It came in a cup and looked just like my rabbit's food. Cohen and I could not wait to see the elephants. They are awesome! They are huge, too. One came over to us. It was so big I was scared at first! Then we got to rub it's trunk. It curled it around and around. The other elephant was splashing water on itself. There was a big tub of water and he put his trunk in and then sprayed it all over his back. I guess he was hot too. Then we saw the geraffes. Talk about tall! They look just like they do in pictures with their necks up in the tree branches. They have black tongues! I don't know how they can eat and drink without falling down. My mom took lots of pictures of us in front of the geraffes because they were so tall next to us. Then we saw and herd the monkeys. There were like a hundred all in this big fenced place with trees and swings and climbing things. I saw baby monkeys too. The monkeys were really funny and we stayed and watched them for a long time. Then we were thirsty, so we got a drink and went to see the big cats. The lions were sleepy looking. There was a big one with a mane and his wife, I guess. They just were lying there in the grass. The tigers were beautiful! They were walking back and forth in front of their cage. I love their stripes, but that part of the zoo was really smelly. There were some other cats, but I can't remember what they are called. They can jump really high. They had to have a roof on their pen. Then we went to the water area and saw the dolphins and the seals. I love dolphins. The dolphins were just caumly swimming around. The seals were playing with a big beach ball and then diving in the water. They are kind of like the monkeys - so fun to watch. When we had seen almost all the animals, we ate lunch. Then it was time for the reptiles and the bugs. I don't really like them as much, but Cohen loves them. I would rather see the elephants or dolphins again. When we had seen everything, we got in the car and my mom asked, "What was your favorite thing?" I said the dolphins and Cohen said the snakes, but we both loved all of it. Then we drove home and got there just in time for supper.

Annotation: Notice that the author of this essay has added specific details that help the reader picture the trip to the zoo. For example, the author supports the idea that elephants are "awesome" with details about their size, rubbing one's trunk, and the water spraying.

Narrative Essay 7: The Zoo

One hot summer day I was eating breakfast and my mom said, "Would you like to go to the zoo today?" I jumped up and yelled! It had been a long time since we had been at the zoo. My brother and I both said, "Yes!" My mom said, "Well, finish your breakfast and then go get ready. We'll leave as soon as you are ready!" Cohen and I never got ready for anything so fast in our lives! We were in the car in a flash! It took us two hours to drive there, and then we had to buy tickets and get some food for the animals. It came in a cup and looked just like my rabbit's food. We were only allowed to feed it to the goats, but that was fine. They have to really careful what the animals eat.

Cohen and I could not wait to see the elephants. They are awesome! They are huge, but they act so gentle. One came over to us. It was so big I was scared at first! Then we got to rub its trunk and it just curled it around and around, looking for food, I think. But that elephant had the sweetest eyes, and her eyelashes were three inches long! The other elephant was splashing water on itself. There was a big tub of water and he put his trunk in and then sprayed it all over his back. I guess he was hot too. It's pretty cool when you think that elephants come with a built-in shower!

Then we saw the giraffes. From far away, they look like they do in pictures, but when you get up close, you realize how very, very tall they really are! I had to stand back to see all of them at once. Some of them were eating leaves off trees, and they were tall enough to just reach over and grab the leaves. The other thing that amazed me was their black tongues! Somehow I wasn't expecting that. The necks of giraffes are so long I don't know how they can drink from the little stream without falling down. My mom took lots of pictures of us in front of the giraffes because they were so tall next to us. We were like tiny little ants next to them.

Then we heard the squeals of the monkeys. There were about thirty of them, all in this big fenced area with trees and swings and climbing things. I saw baby monkeys too, clinging to their mothers and looking so sweet. Three older ones were running after each other and playing some kind of game. They were just like little kids. The monkeys were really funny and we stayed and watched them for a long time.

Next we went to see the big cats. The lions looked sleepy, lying on the grass. There was a big one with a mane and his wife, I guess. They looked like they were hot. They sure didn't look too scary, but then again, they were almost asleep. The tigers were beautiful! They were walking back and forth in front of their cage. I love their stripes, but that part of the zoo was really smelly. There were some other cats called caracals that are smaller than lions and tigers. They can jump really high – as much as twenty-five feet! They had to have a roof on their pen.

Finally, we went to the water area and saw the dolphins and the seals. I love dolphins. The dolphins were just calmly swimming around at first, and then the girl came to feed them, and they started jumping out of the water to catch the fish she threw. Dolphins are just so graceful. The seals were playing with a big beach ball and then diving in the water. They are kind of like the monkeys – so funny to watch.

When we had seen almost all the animals, we ate lunch. Then it was time for the reptiles and the bugs. I don't really like them as much, but Cohen really loves them, especially the bugs and snakes. I would rather see the elephants or dolphins again. When we had seen everything, we got in the car and my mom asked, "What was your favorite thing?" I said, "The dolphins!" Cohen said, "The snakes!" but we both loved all of it. Then we drove home and got there just in time for supper. It was such a wonderful day at the zoo.

Annotation: In this essay, the author continued the improvement by using colorful, interesting words, such as describing the monkey babies as "clinging" to their moms, and saying that she and her brother were "like tiny ants next to" the giraffes. The use of these kinds of words and phrases makes the reader want to read more.

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