

Personal Goal Setting: Backwards Learning

Examine the samples of proficient work provided for you from students in previous classes who wrote proficient personal narratives. After examining the samples decide what you must know about personal narratives and quality writing. Determine what you must be able to do to communicate with clarity and precision and achieve the goal.

Final Goal

At the end of this lesson or unit, I will be asked to...

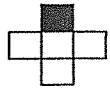
Write a narrative in which I:

- Engage and orient my readers by establishing a context and point of view, and organize a sequence of events or experiences.
- Develop narrative elements (e.g., setting, event sequence, characters) using relevant sensory details.

Provide a satisfying conclusion that follows from the events, experiences, or ideas.

Here's what I need to know and understand to achieve the goal:

Here's what I need to be able to do to achieve the goal:



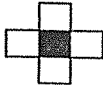
Hook, Kindle, and Bridge

Hook: Think about this quote, “Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something is more important than the fear.’

Kindling Question: Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not? What is something that you judged to be more important than a fear you might have had to face? What feelings do you have to overcome to face your fears?

Bridge: We all face fears every day. Today we are going to read a story about stage fright called “First Appearance.” As you listen and read the story think about the author’s perspective and how he dealt with his fear of being on stage.

Watch for sensory words the author uses to help you understand how he was feeling, the emotions he had to deal with, and comparisons he may have made that helped you as a reader. See if you can find a conclusion that Twain made after this experience and what he learns from it and what he hopes to teach you.



Mark Twain's "First Appearance"

Teacher Note: Read Mark Twain's "First Appearance" aloud to students. First, students listen without the text in front of them. Then, read the piece aloud again. This time provide students with the text and have them make Window Notes.

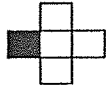
"FIRST APPEARANCE"

Mark Twain

On October 5, 1906, Mr. Clemens, following a musical recital by his daughter in Norfolk, Conn., addressed her audience on the subject of stage-fright. He thanked the people for making things as easy as possible for his daughter's American debut as a contralto, and then told of his first experience before the public.

MY heart goes out in sympathy to anyone who is making his first appearance before an audience of human beings. By a direct process of memory I go back forty years, less one month—for I'm older than I look. I recall the occasion of my first appearance. San Francisco knew me then only as a reporter, and I was to make my bow to San Francisco as a lecturer. I knew that nothing short of compulsion would get me to the theatre. So I bound myself by a hard-and-fast contract so that I could not escape. I got to the theatre forty-five minutes before the hour set for the lecture. My knees were shaking so that I didn't know whether I could stand up. If there is an awful, horrible malady in the world, it is stage-fright—and sea-sickness. They are a pair. I had stage-fright then for the first and last time. I was only seasick once, too. It was on a little ship on which there were two hundred other passengers. I was sick. I was so sick that there wasn't any left for those other two hundred passengers. It was dark and lonely behind the scenes in that theatre, and I peeked through the little peek-holes they have in theatre curtains and looked into the big auditorium. That was dark and empty, too. By-and-by it lighted up, and the audience began to arrive. I had got a number of friends of mine, stalwart men, to sprinkle themselves through the audience armed with big clubs. Every time I said anything they could possibly guess I intended to be funny they were to pound those clubs on the floor. Then there was a kind lady in a box up there, also a good friend of mine, the wife of the Governor. She was to watch me intently, and whenever I glanced toward her she was going to deliver a gubernatorial laugh that would lead the whole audience into applause. At last I began. I had the manuscript tucked under a United States flag in front of me where I could get at it in case of need. But I managed to get started without it. I walked up and down—I was young in those days and needed the exercise—and talked and talked. Right in the middle of the speech I had placed a gem. I had put in a moving, pathetic part which was to get at the hearts and souls of my hearers. When I delivered it they did just what I hoped and expected. They sat silent and awed. I had touched them. Then I happened to glance up at the box where the Governor's wife was—you know what happened. Well, after the first agonizing five minutes, my stage-fright left me, never to return. I know if I was going to be hanged I could get up and make a good showing, and I intend to. But I shall never forget my feelings before the agony left me, and I got up here to thank you for her for helping my daughter, by your kindness, to live through her first appearance. And I want to thank you for your appreciation of her singing, which is, by-the-way, hereditary.

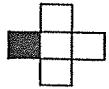
MORALS AND MEMORY.



"First Appearance" Window Notes

Listen to the story and follow along in the text. Stop and make notes along the way.

<p style="text-align: center;">Facts/Details</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sensory Words/Feelings Your Personal Connections</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Questions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ideas What does the author mean when he says stage fright is a "horrible malady?"</p>

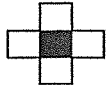


Most Valuable Point

Work with a partner and compare the notes you both made. Discuss your questions together. Summarize your notes and then identify the most valuable important point you learned. Be ready to share your summary with the class and be prepared to explain your thinking.

Summary of My Notes:

Most Valuable Point:



Comprehension Menu

Work with your Literature Circle. Read through each of the questions on the menu. As a group, discuss the questions and reach consensus. Scan and skim Mark Twain's "First Appearance" to find evidence to support your thinking. Be prepared to share your thinking when we have our large group discussion.

Mastery	Interpersonal
<p>What does Mark Twain do to ensure he will get a laugh or two from the audience? Was this successful?</p> <p>What are some lines from the story that helped the reader know what it felt like to have stage fright?</p> <p>What event happened that inspired Twain to tell this story?</p>	<p>How might the sharing of Twain's personal experience have helped his daughter or others?</p> <p>What personal lesson is Twain trying to share with the reader?</p> <p>How did Twain show he sympathized with his daughter?</p> <p>Can you identify or relate to this story? What connections did you make?</p>
Understanding	Self-Expressive
<p>How does author's perspective affect the telling of the experience?</p> <p>How does humor help the story?</p> <p>What reasons might Twain have in sharing this experience with others?</p> <p>How do these reasons impact author's purpose?</p>	<p>When can a little fear be helpful? How?</p> <p>How might the story change if it were told from Twain's daughter's perspective?</p>