

Literacy Narrative

A literacy narrative is a story about reading or composing in any form or context. Most of the time, these narratives can take a variety of forms. I want you to create a written story. Write your story about your experiences as a small child or a teen with reading or writing.

Literacy narratives can be about reading stories, books, cereal boxes, music, or video game cheats – anything at all that you read.

Literacy narratives can be about composing letters, *Facebook* pages, song lyrics, essays in school - anything at all that you compose.

Literacy narratives can be sad or happy, poignant or funny, informative or incidental.

Literacy narratives often focus on powerful memories about events, people, situations, places – times when you tried and succeeded or tried and failed; someone who gave you a chance or took one away; situations when someone taught you how to do something or when you taught someone else; churches and schools, contests and performances, plays and public presentations.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Have you ever learned a new language (musical notation, French, Pascal)? Helped someone else learn a new language? Struggled with learning a new language?
- Have you ever written a “goodbye” letter? A love letter? A Poem? A novel? A history or a email message that made you blush?
- Did you ever win (or lose) a crucial public debate? Did you ever forget your lines in a play? Did you bond with Dick and Jane, the Hardy Boys, or Harry Potter?
- Did you learn to read by studying the back of a cereal box? Do you remember the first time you thought of yourself as a writer? When you got (or lost) your first library card? The bedtime stories your parents used to read to you? Your favorite book?
- Have you ever felt illiterate? Can you tell us a story about a time you were punished for reading (or not reading)? A time when you were rewarded for writing insightfully?
- Do you have memories about playing “teacher” with your friends? Creating a family newspaper or a magazine?
- Was your mom or a dad or one of your grandparents a writer? A reader? Can you tell us a story about how they helped you write or read?