



April 13-17, 2020

Topic: Forms and Types of Creative Nonfiction

Subtopic: Personal Narratives

Overview

1. Personal narrative is a form of writing in which the writer relates one event, incident, or experience from his/her life. It often concerns a particularly happy, sad, or humorous episode in one's life.
2. It shares some aspects of the traditional structure of fiction such as character and setting.
3. The details do not only revolve around events, but also the narrator's personal thoughts and feelings. The narrator may find the use of figurative language. Such additions make the narration more colorful, more vivid, and more effective.
4. It is told from the first- person point of view.

Read and analyze the sample personal narrative below.

OVERCOMING MY FEAR

By Emily

I am not afraid of roller coasters. I used to be, but that was before I took my first trip to Disneyland. I will never forget that trip. It changed my life.

It all started when my family and I were on our second day at Disneyland. My family and I were walking by a huge, enormous, gigantic roller coaster called The Thunder Mountain Railroad. It was as tall as the Empire State Building. I was hoping that no one would notice it so we wouldn't have to go on it, but my dad spotted it immediately.

I told my dad that I really didn't want to go on it, but he said that I would never overcome my fear of roller coasters if I didn't go on one. I decided that I would try it. Once.

When we got on the ride, I was shaking uncontrollably. The ride started moving, slowly at first, and then into a cave that was a black hole with fake bats in it. The ride went up, up, up, and then suddenly, it happened. We went down the hill faster than anything. Zooming, racing, flying. Faster and faster. I smiled. I was actually having fun.

When the ride was over, I wanted to go on it again. I started going on every roller coaster in Disneyland. After all the other roller coasters, I would always go on The Thunder Mountain Railroad because that ride will always be my favorite. I have learned that I shouldn't decide that I don't like something before I have tried it. Now, I will go on any roller coaster anyone asks me to. I have overcome my fear of roller coasters.

1. Language: Does the writer draw you in confidence?
2. Characterization: What are the ways by which the writer characterizes herself?
3. Self-revelation: Does the writer demonstrate attempts to be honest about her flaws?
4. Self-realization: Does the writer reach a realization that she must be accepted for that?
5. Dramatic and focused prose: Does the writer show a limited focus about herself but highlight it with figurative words?

References:

Creative Nonfiction: A Textbook on Humanities and Social Sciences page 103

Creative Nonfiction page 161

<http://msmcclure.com/?pageid=932>