

Narrative Writing Annotated Narrative Example

Purpose: To narrate a story.

The Bad Birthday

Josie (1a) woke up one Saturday morning (1c) feeling grumpy. She was annoyed. It was her little brother Alfie's (1a) birthday, and there was going to be a big party at their house (1b). Josie was jealous and irritated that she wouldn't be getting as much attention as Alfie. "Humph," exhaled Josie as she stomped down the stairs. Josie was nine years old, had short brown hair and dark eyes that always looked like she knew more than she let on. Alfie was seven, had lighter hair and big eyes with long eyelashes – Josie was sure this was why he got away with more than she did.

A little later, after breakfast but before lunch, (2) Mum was going around checking everything was ready for the party. (3) Alfie was so excited that he was jumping around every room in the house – which only annoyed Josie more.

"Can you STOP jumping!" she shouted.

"Nope! Too excited!" called Alfie as he sprung past her into the next room. Grumbling to herself, Josie went back upstairs to her room to hide away and read.

(3) After Alfie and his friends had played a few party games, Mum called Josie downstairs for presents and cake. Josie didn't want to see Alfie open presents; she was jealous that she wasn't getting any new toys today. Once Alfie had opened all the gifts and everyone had sung 'Happy Birthday', the guests took their goodie bags, waved goodbye and went home. (3) While everyone was leaving, Josie snuck to the pile of presents and dug through them.

Introduce your reader to the world of your story: the characters (who) (1a), the setting (where) (1b), and the time (when) (1c).

(2) Introduce new characters.

(3) Events or actions that lead to the climax of the story.

(3) Josie found the most exciting looking toy and tiptoed out of the lounge with Alfie's new Dino-Robot-Spaceman hidden behind her back. Looking both ways in the hallway to check it was clear, she sprinted up the stairs to her room, slammed the door, and flung open her wardrobe. Quickly, she dragged everything out from the bottom of the wardrobe and tucked the Dino-Robot-Spaceman at the very back before throwing all her stuff on top of it to hide it.

A little later that afternoon, Josie was in her room reading a book, when all of a sudden, (2) Dad shouted, "Josie!" Trying very hard to look as innocent as an angel, Josie opened her bedroom door and crept downstairs.

(3) "Josie, have you seen Alfie's new Dino-Robot-Spaceman?" Dad asked.

"No, definitely not," replied Josie.

"Are you telling the truth?" Dad looked into Josie's eyes and knew there was something else going on. Josie's face went as red as a tomato.

"The last time I saw it, it was over there in the pile of presents," lied Josie.

"Maybe we should go and check the bedrooms just in case," suggested Mum.

"Good idea," said Dad.

Josie started to panic. Just as Dad was about to head upstairs,

(4) Josie cracked under pressure.

"All right, I took it!" she confessed. Alfie stopped crying. Dad looked shocked, while Mum looked furious. Josie felt about 10 centimetres tall as Mum started telling her off.

"It's his special day! How could you be so unkind! I thought you were a better role model than this. I'm very disappointed in you." Josie started crying and ran upstairs to get Alfie's Dino-Robot-Spaceman.

(4) The climax. This is what the rising action has led to.

"There, I'm sorry I took it; I was jealous."

"Thank you for doing the right thing, Josie," said Dad calmly.

(5) Later that afternoon, Alfie was happily playing with his new toys. Josie had been sulking in her room after being told off by Mum.

"Do you want to play with me?" came a quiet voice at the doorway. Josie looked up. It was Alfie. "I'll let you play with the Dino-Robot-Spaceman if you want."

Alfie and Josie spent the rest of the afternoon playing with Alfie's new toys, and Josie smiled for the first time that day. Dad popped his head around the corner of Alfie's room and smiled too.

(6) "Hey, you two. How about we have jelly and cake for dinner?"

"Yes!" shouted Josie and Alfie. The family spent the evening together laughing and smiling, and everyone went to bed very happy.

The End

(5) The falling action is after the problem has been solved and everything is going back to normal.

(6) The resolution of the story. It ties up the loose ends and makes sure the problems are solved.

Examples of Language Features:

Past tense:

Use of -ed suffix, words like was, went, had, sung, took

Connectives:

Later, after, once, before, while

Dialogue:

"Josie, have you seen Alfie's new Dino-Robot-Spaceman?"

"There, I'm sorry I took it; I was jealous."

"Do you want to play with me?"

Descriptive Language:

Nine years old, short brown hair, dark eyes that always looked like she knew more than she let on, lighter hair, big eyes with long eyelashes

Figurative Language:

As red as a tomato, as innocent as an angel