



Dance at Grandpa's
By Laura Ingalls Wilder

Descriptive Event

Dance at Grandpa's is a great descriptive story about a family event.

This lesson gives students an opportunity to describe a family event of their own. Since the event in the book took place during the winter, this lesson is great for the winter as well, *but* can be used any time of the year.

Now for the lesson!

1. Give the storyline: "Today you're going to describe a family event that you attend or have attended by writing a story about it."
2. Have your students brainstorm family events that they have experienced. Christmas party, Grandma's birthday, a baby shower, a cousin's graduation, a pool party, 4th of July Bar-b-que, baptism, 1st communion etc.
3. Read the book *Dance at Grandpa's* to the group.
4. Give the students time to think of a family event. They can write the story in 1st or 3rd person. The younger children find it much easier to write in first person, making it a personal narrative.
5. Show the 5 sections:
 - a. Introduction: setting, main character, time and location
 - b. Describe the location.
 - c. Describe the people's actions.
 - d. Describe the start of the event and the meal.
 - e. Conclusion: end thoughts and feelings

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps. They are free to use their own words. Remind them that ANYTHING can happen in their story as long as they follow the steps to keep their story organized. (I've written examples in italics just for your own guidance.)



6. Begin the story by introducing the characters and setting.
There was a little (girl/boy) named _____ who lived in (city or state) in a (type of house). She/he lived there with _____.
7. Describe the event's time and location.
One (season), (time of day), everyone was (emotion) about (event) at (place).
8. Describe the location.
(Name of main character) loved (place). Describe it.
9. Describe everyone's actions.
It was time to get ready for _____. OR Everyone was busy.
Describe what everyone did to prepare.
10. Describe the start of the party/fun/event.
Soon (everyone) began (actions). Describe all the fun.
11. Describe the meal.
Then, everyone sat down to eat. Describe the food or meal time.
12. Describe the end including the thoughts and feelings people had.

Notes: