



BIRTHDAY PARTY PERSONAL NARRATIVE

For this prompt, children have to write about an unusual, surprising, fun or funny moment at a birthday party.

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core Standards:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3, W.1.3, W.2.3, W.3.3, W.4.3, W.5.3

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the storyline: "You're at a birthday party doing something. All of a sudden, an unusual, surprising, fun or funny thing happens."
2. While kids LOVE to talk about birthday parties, I've noticed that it takes some time for them to really think of a "moment" to write about, until you get them chatting and talking for a while.

After giving the prompt, give the kids plenty of time to think through their past and decide on a special birthday party moment to use in their writing. Give them some examples to help them think too:

At a gym party, one girl fell off the parallel bars.

At a friend's party, the dog stepped on a new toy the boy had received and broke it.

At a father's birthday party, while cutting the cake, the folding table collapsed.

3. Show the 5 steps:
 - a. Introduction (Time, Place, People)
 - b. Before the moment
 - c. The moment
 - d. After the moment
 - e. Conclusion (Thoughts for the future)

Remember: K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,
2nd Graders 2 sentences, 3rd Graders 3 sentences and so on.

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps so their story is organized and complete. They are free to write these ideas in their own words.

1. First, the students hook their reader by writing sounds that are heard at the party.
Crack! Pop!, Hee-Haw!, "Happy Birthday Jackson!", Aggh!, etc.
2. Write when, whose party, where and who was there
3. Describe what everyone was doing BEFORE the unusual, surprising, fun or funny moment.
4. Describe the unusual, surprising, fun or funny moment.
5. Describe what everyone did after the unusual, surprising, fun or funny moment.
6. Write any lessons that were learned or thoughts for the future.