



Dance at Grandpa's
By Laura Ingalls Wilder

Descriptive Event

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

NOTE: This writing prompt can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3, W.1.3, W.2.3, W.3.3., W.3.3.C, W.3.3.D, W.4.3, W.4.3.A, W.4.3.C, W.4.3.D, W.5.3, W.5.3.A, W.5.3.C, W.5.3.D and W.5.3.E.

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.

The students can describe ANY event as well, regardless of the time of year it is when you give the lesson.

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the storyline: "Today you're going to describe a family event that you attend or have attended."
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, bar or bat mitzvah etc.
3. Read the book *Dance at Grandpa's* to the group.
4. Give the students time to think of a family event.
5. Show the 5 sections:
 - Event Location
 - People's Actions
 - Food
 - Activities
 - Ending/Thoughts

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 description is organized. (I've written examples in italics just for your own guidance.)

1. Name the event and location.

Every Thanksgiving, my family and I go to my grandma's house.

2. Describe the location.

She lives in the country in Indiana. The land is flat with huge corn fields. There are big red barns.

3. Describe the people's actions.

My grandma, mom and aunt stay in the kitchen to cook the food. They don't let any kids in the kitchen! My cousins and I play outside until the food is ready. One year it snowed so much! So, my oldest cousin brought his snow mobile.

4. Describe the food.

The food smells so good while we play. The turkey is always huge. My grandma makes the best mashed potatoes with lots of butter and salt.

5. Describe the activities.

After we eat, my uncles sit on the couches and watch football. They fall asleep and snore really loudly. The women all go for a walk. Then, we play board games.

6. Describe the ending. Write your thoughts or feelings.

In the evening, we get all the food out again. We eat one more time. We play one more game. I love Thanksgiving with my family so much!