



## Servals-A Personal Narrative

This is a very fun piece! The serval “writes” a personal narrative about his/her time as a pet and then later as a wild cat at the Carolina Tiger Rescue (or other rescue location).

NOTE: This lesson 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.B, W.3.3.C, W.3.3.D, W.4.3, W.4.3.A, W.4.3.B, W.4.3.C, W.4.3.D, W.4.3.E, W.5.3, W.5.3.A, W.5.3.B, W.5.3.C, W.5.3.D and W.5.3.E.

This prompt can be used for any animal that is meant for the wild but is often taken in as a pet.

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the storyline: Explain to the students that they are going to write a personal narrative from the serval’s perspective. The serval is going to complain about its care as a pet, make fun of human behavior, end up at the rescue location and commend its new care there.
2. Discuss the facts about servals
  - a. They are native to Africa and live primarily south of the Sahara Desert.
  - b. They love the Savannah with the tall grass, streams, rivers and lakes.
  - c. They are solitary and nocturnal.
  - d. They have long legs, short tails, large ears and spotted coats.
  - e. On the back of their black ears are white spots.
  - f. They eat rodents and small mammals.
3. Brainstorm bad care, silly human behavior and quality care at the rescue location.
4. Show the 5 sections:
  - a. Introduction
  - b. Complains about the care
  - c. Makes fun of human behavior
  - d. Goes to the rescue location
  - e. Conclusion

Remember: K-1<sup>st</sup> Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Graders 2 sentences, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. There are sample sentences in italics for your own guidance.

1. Leave the first line blank for the title.

2. Introductory statement

*Hello! Hey! Or Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (name the cat) and I'm so glad to be at the Carolina Tiger Rescue.*

*Not long ago (or name the time), I was living \_\_\_\_\_. I did not like being a pet!*

3. Complain about the care (small crate, small house, no trees, cat food YUCK!)  
*First of all, the care was horrible!*

4. Make fun of human habits (mowing the grass, walking on 2 legs, using silverware, watching TV, etc.)  
*Second of all, my owners were so strange!*

5. Write about the transition to the rescue location.  
*One day, I \_\_\_\_\_. My owners couldn't handle me anymore and brought me here to the Carolina Tiger Rescue.*

6. State the good things at the Carolina Tiger Rescue (real meat, tall grass, trees, space, vet care)  
*I was so happy to be at the Carolina Tiger Rescue!*

7. Conclusion:  
*I did not like being a pet at all. I hope I'm never a pet again!*

8. Choose and write a title on the first line.  
A popular one among campers was "Listen up!"

9. Add a charming [serval art accent](#) to the border of your writing!

