



Grade 5 Writing Unit 3- Memoir: From Essay and Narrative to Memoir

In this unit, your child will study the qualities of memoir writing (which combines elements of essay and personal narrative) and then apply these elements to the writing of the most defining moments in his/her life.

The skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Conveying events and experiences precisely
- Analyzing the structures used in mentor memoir texts and choosing the best structure for precisely communicating his/her personal memoir story
- Using student checklists for self-assessing and guiding independence as a writer
- Exploring words, structures, and punctuation that best help convey meaning

Questions to invite conversation with your child at home:

If your child is reading, ask one:

- What are moments from your life that seem significant to you? How have these moments changed or influenced you?
- What does this author want you to feel or think when telling the story? How can you do that in your writing?

If your child is drafting or revising, ask one:

- Tell me your story. What is your story really about? Listen. Talking about details helps the writer grow ideas.
- What craft moves did you choose to include in your draft? How will your choices help you tell your story well? Appreciate your child's choices.
- How are you using the Writing Checklist to help you work independently?

Some books your child may be exposed to in this unit:

- "Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros
- Journey by Patricia MacLachlan
- Invention of Solitude by Paul Auster
- An excerpt from The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

At home, you can assist your child by engaging in story telling about his/her life and even share moments from your own life.