



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 1

One Topic, Different Writing Jobs



Grade 3 • Prepare Cluster

Recognizing When Narrative Fits



★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 1

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Name the topic, purpose, and audience for a writing job.
- Decide when narrative is the best genre.
- Read "The Mystery of the Traveling Shell."
- Use TRAILS to develop an experience, not a list.

I Can...

- Explain why narrative fits when the purpose is to let a reader experience a discovery.
- Find the TRAILS elements in a narrative.
- **Plan and write** my own short narrative about a mysterious object.

★ A Mysterious Shell Arrives!

Day 1 • Gather & Reveal

I Notice...

It is white. It is smooth. It has lines or ridges. It may have come from the ocean.

I Wonder...

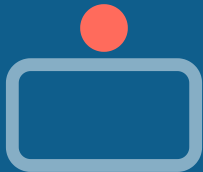
Why is it here? Who found it?
How did it travel? Was it important?

Today we meet Emsy — she discovers a shell where she does not expect to find one!



Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 • Gather & Reveal



Before We Read...

coastal — near the coast or ocean • **inland** — away from the coast

artifact — an object that tells us about people from the past

trade — exchanging something you have for something someone else has

scarcity — when there is not an unlimited amount of what people want

Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot!

★ Reveal: TRAILS in Action

Day 1 • Reveal

T

Topic or Experience

Emsy investigates how a shell traveled to Poverty Point.

R

Relationship

The shell and clues connect Emsy to people who lived long ago.

A

Actions, Thoughts,
Dialogue

Emsy pulls out her notebook, traces the map, and says, "That is much too far for a shell to roll by itself."

★ Narrative or Information?

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

I

Important Moment

"One traveling object could be an accident... but several objects from distant places make a pattern."

L / S

Lesson & Setting

A small object can reveal a large story about the past. Setting: a museum in the present, connected to Poverty Point and the past.

Facts can appear inside a narrative — the writer's purpose is to let us follow Emsy while she notices, questions, investigates, and understands.

★ TRAILS Mystery Case File

Day 2 • Attempt

Round One: Evidence Cards

Draw a card. Match it to a TRAILS mat. Explain: "I think this belongs under ___ because ___."

Round Two: Sequence Cards

Put the seven events in order. Place the Important Moment marker on the event that changes Emsy's thinking.

★ A List or a Narrative?

Day 3 • Discuss

"Emsy saw a shell. She looked at a map. She saw rivers. She learned about copper. She solved the mystery."

Is this a developed narrative?

Not really! It is missing setting detail, thoughts, dialogue, a developed important moment, and a meaningful ending.

A narrative helps the reader travel through the experience with the character.



Your Turn: Use It!

Day 3 • Use (Independent)

Writing Task

Write a short narrative about finding a mysterious object where it does not seem to belong.

Choose your object: a rusty key • a shiny button • a coin • a feather • a tiny map • a shell in a field

≡ Plan with TRAILS!

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

T-R

What object is found? Who finds it? Who helps or reacts?

A

What does the character do, think, and say?

I

What clue changes the character's thinking?

L-S

What does the character understand at the end? Where and when did it happen?

Six to eight sentences: setting, character, actions in order, a thought or line of dialogue, an important moment, a lasting effect.

🎯 Award Yourself & Target!

Day 4 • Award & Target

Award Stems

"I award myself the ___ Award because I wrote ___. This helped the reader ___."

Target Stems

"My next writing goal is..." • "I am curious about..." • "A place my thinking felt stuck was..."

Exit Ticket: Author-Educator

Day 5 • Explain & Educate Others

Share your narrative. Name one TRAILS element you used and explain why you included it.

"The experience in my narrative is _____. This part shows the TRAILS element _____. I included it because _____."

★ Genre Match Mini-Sort

Small-Group Support

Step 1

Read one writing job.
Point to the topic,
underline the purpose
words, name the
audience.

Step 2

Choose between two
genre cards at a time.

Step 3

Use a three-box
TRAILS planner:
setting/character →
important action →
important
moment/lasting effect.

② One Passage, Three Responses

Enrichment • Say it, then explain it

Create a narrative opening using one detail from the shell passage.

Create an informative explanation opening using the same detail.

Create a purposeful museum-letter opening — then explain how the writing job changes the content.

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice choosing a genre and developing a narrative with TRAILS, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in or check the box that matches how you feel.

Be honest with yourself — this helps you see how much you are growing!

Let's Look at an Answer!

Task: Write a short narrative about finding a mysterious object where it does not seem to belong.

LOW

"Maya found a key. It was old. She showed her teacher. The end."

What's working: Names a character, an object, and an action.

What's missing: No setting detail, no thought or dialogue, no developed important moment, and no lasting effect — it lists events instead of developing the experience.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Task: Write a short narrative about finding a mysterious object where it does not seem to belong.

MEDIUM

"After recess, Maya found a rusty key under the bench. She knelt and looked closely. A tag on the key said Room 12. Maya was surprised because that was her classroom."

What's working: Has a setting, a character, actions in order, and a clue that begins the important moment.

What's missing: No thought or line of dialogue yet, and no lasting effect — the ending needs to show what Maya understands.

Our Strongest Answer!

Task: Write a short narrative about finding a mysterious object where it does not seem to belong.

HIGH

"After recess, Maya spotted a rusty key beneath the garden bench. She called her friend Eli and knelt to brush away the dirt. 'Why would a key be hiding here?' she asked. Eli turned it over and noticed a tiny metal tag marked Room 12. Maya's eyes widened because Room 12 was their classroom. They carried the key to their teacher and learned that it opened an old supply cabinet. Maya had not found treasure, but she had discovered that one small object could begin a very big mystery."

What's working: A clear setting and character, actions and dialogue in order, a real important moment (the Room 12 tag), and a lasting effect. This is our Module 1 target!