

12.6.2020

KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY.

SUBJECT ENGLISH I

CLASS - VIII

Dear Students,

Today's topic is —

Narrative Composition.

Points are given to you,  
to write a narrative  
composition.

In the previous class ~~class~~  
I gave you the guidelines  
to write a descriptive  
composition. I hope you  
have followed it.

## A. NARRATIVE COMPOSITION

In every English language paper, you are required to write a narrative composition in one form or the other. To 'narrate' means to 'relate' and a narrative composition mainly consists of a narration of a story on its own or an account of a sequence of actions. You could be asked to narrate some typical incident illustrating a person's character. Your readers will enjoy your narration if it is drawn from an incident about which you have some experience. They appreciate a narrative which is not only honestly told but is also true to life.

### Ingredients of a Narrative Composition

- (a) an interesting incident;
- (b) some characters (characterisation);
- (c) a suitable background which may be a hospital, a shop, a farm, a factory, a school, a home, etc;
- (d) dialogue and language;
- (e) (sometimes) a particular mood or aim, e.g., an incident may be humorous, sad, frightening or of educational value.

### Points to Note

- ❑ **Keep to the order** in which events are supposed to have occurred so that the beginning, middle and end occur chronologically. However, there can be variations as far as this point is concerned.
- ❑ **Begin with a bang.** This is often most difficult in a narrative essay. Here are some possible ways of starting a narrative composition:
  - **by plunging straight into action, e.g.,**  
With an unbelievable bang, the truck crashed through the front room.
  - **by an arresting, or unusual detail, e.g.,**  
It was a bright cold day in December and the clocks were striking 13.
  - **by setting the scene of the story.**  
The danger to avoid here is that of making it too long which does not give you sufficient time to develop it, e.g.,  
"It was a drab crowd, and Jane noticed that the street along which they were passing was even drabber, the featureless houses staring blankly through

a monotony of grime. And yet it was a cheerful, expectant crowd, in high spirits, like the children of a not very happy school let out to play."

- ❑ *by a dialogue, e.g.,*

"If I ever see you again," he hissed. "I will send you away."

- ❑ *Decide about the selection of characters and anecdotes.* People think and act as individuals, each one having his own peculiar and distinct characteristics. A good writer creates a clear visual image of each individual in his narration. Instead of merely talking about a personality, one should make the reader see him.

Read the following description taken from *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Note, how the comparison helps to make the reader see the character in action.

As he glided stealthily along, creeping beneath the shelter of the walls and doorways, the hideous old man seemed like some loathsome reptile, engendered in the slime and darkness through which he moved: crawling forth, by night, in search of some rich offal for a meal.

- ❑ *Consider the importance of the scene and the time of the incident.* For many narrations about your experience, you can make a brief reference to the time and place with a short sentence such as: "Yesterday after the football match, Tapas and I helped to decorate the dining hall for the annual get-together."
- ❑ *Decide which aspect you are going to emphasise and make personal comments, where necessary.*

Dear students,

Here are the topics for you, based on the 'narrative' Composition.

1) Give an account of a religious festival at which you were present.

2) Write an account of a book that you have enjoyed, and try to analyse what particular features gave you pleasure.

Thank you.