

**Lesson: Compose a draft that conveys major ideas and maintains focus on the topic with specific, relevant, supporting details by using preliminary plans.**

**Fourth Grade Objective:** 4.06 remediation

**Lesson**

1. A personal narrative is a story about a personal experience or something that happened to you. When composing a personal narrative, writers select one main event or most important thing to write about. When you write a personal narrative, one strategy that will help you stay focused on your topic is to think about one small moment in time, an experience that lasts about 20-30 minutes. The details that you include in your writing should support this one focus. For example, you may write details to describe what you **Hear**, your **Actions**, **Thoughts**, what you **See**, and what you **Say**. A way to remember this is to think of the acronym **H.A.T.S.S.** (like hats)
2. Owl Moon by Jane Yolen is an excellent example of a personal narrative. In this story, the little girl is the narrator and she tells her story of searching for owls with her father one cold winter night. The entire story stays focused on this one main event. Throughout this story, the writer includes details to support this event by describing what the girl **Hears**, her **Actions**, **Thoughts**, what she **Sees**, and what she **Says** during this moment in time.
3. Read Owl Moon. As you read, list examples of words or phrases in a chart like the one below that show what the girl **Hears**, her **Actions**, **Thoughts**, what she **Sees**, and what she **Says** during this moment in time.

**H.A.T.S.S.**

<b>Hear</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Thoughts</b>	<b>See</b>	<b>Say</b>

4. Look at your chart. Do all the details you included relate to the moment in time when the girl is searching for owls with her father? Do these details help you see and feel what is happening?

**Check your answers**

Look at the chart on the following page. This chart includes some of the details from Owl Moon that fit into each category. See how well you did!

### H.A.T.S.S.

Hear	Actions	Thoughts	See	Say
-train whistle blowing -dogs singing -quiet like a dream -feet crunching on snow - <i>whoo-whoo-whoo</i> -Pa saying "Time to go home"	-walked to woods -run after Pa -stopped and waited -listened -shrugged -put mittens over the scarf over the mouth and listened -looked hard -almost smiled -watched owl silently -stared at owl -owl pumped its wings -owl flew into forest	-not disappointed -think you have to be brave -knew I could talk and even laugh after seeing the owl	-Trees as giant statues -Bright moon -shiny sky -footprints in snow -Pa's shadow and girl's shadow -pine trees, black and pointy -black shadows -moon high above -white snow -owl shadow	-never said a word -sighed

As you can see, the details in the chart all relate to the time when the girl goes searching for owls with her father. The whole event may have lasted 20-30 minutes. These details help the reader see and feel what is happening. They support the main event and help move the story along. The prompt for this story could have been to write about a time you had fun, or write about a special memory, or write about an adventure. The focus is on just one event that fits in this category – searching for owls.

#### Try these on your own!

1. Think about a time you had fun. Select one main event in which you had fun. This event should be about a 20-30 minute experience. This will be the focus of your story. Now create a chart like the one above (H.A.T.S.S.) and jot down ideas for details that will help the reader see and feel what is happening during that moment in time. Finally, use the details to write a personal narrative about a time you had fun.
2. Think about a special memory. Select one main event that describes this special memory. This event should be about a 20-30 minute experience. This will be the focus of your story. Now create a chart like the one above (H.A.T.S.S.) and jot down ideas for details that will help the reader see and feel what is happening during that moment in time. Finally, use the details to write a personal narrative about your special memory.
3. Think about a time you went on an adventure. Select one main event in which you experienced an adventure. This event should be about a 20-30 minute experience. This will be the focus of your story. Now create a chart like the one above (H.A.T.S.S.) and jot down ideas for details that will help the reader see and feel what is happening during that moment in time. Finally, use the details to write a personal narrative about a time you went on an adventure.

**Check how well you did by using the following rubric:**

4	<b>Beyond</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Story clearly shows one most important thing or main event</li><li>- Story stays focused on most important thing or main event</li><li>- All ideas and events are important to the focus or main event</li><li>- Story has specific details of which all are related to the main event</li><li>- The details help the reader see and feel what is happening</li><li>- The details clearly move the story along and makes the reader feel as if he/she could actually experience the same event</li></ul>
3	<b>Meets Expectations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Story has one most important thing or main event.</li><li>- Story stays focused on most important thing or main event with just minor lapses</li><li>- Most ideas and events are important to the focus or main event.</li><li>- Story has specific details of which most are related to the main event</li><li>- The details help the reader see and feel what is happening.</li><li>- The details help to move the story along.</li></ul>
2	<b>Inconsistent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Story has a main event, but may also include other smaller events</li><li>- There are major lapses in focus of main event</li><li>- Some ideas and events are important to the focus or main event</li><li>- Some specific details are included</li></ul>
1	<b>Not Present</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Story does not have one most important thing or main event</li><li>- Details in the story are not related to main event</li><li>- Details do not help the reader see and feel what is happening</li></ul>