



Grade 5

Standard:

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations. Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

“Search the California Content Standards.” *CA Content Standards (CA Dept of Education)*, California Department of Education, www2.cde.ca.gov/cacs/ela?order=0&perpage=100&mingrade=5&maxgrade=5&dl=0.

Creative Story Writing Exercise

How do authors find inspiration to write stories? They often write about ideas they have and want to share through **characters**, **settings**, and **problems**. Let’s write a story using words as our inspiration! Below is a word bank with fifteen words that can be very different from one another. Many of the words can be used as nouns, verbs, and/or adjectives. You get to choose how you would like to use each one. Write a story using every one of those words. The story can be as long or short as you’d like. You may use a word more than once. You may use a different tense of the word. For example, if you are provided “run,” you may use “ran.”

Helpful tips:

- Remember that stories have beginnings, middles, and ends.

- Stories also have **characters**, **settings** (times and places), and **plots** (the events that happen in the story).
- The characters in most stories also face some sort of problem or **conflict**. Try to think of a conflict that one or more characters in your story will face. Think about how you will introduce the conflict in the story, and how the characters solve it at the end.
- If you're having trouble using the words provided, look at the words and try to make connections between them. For example, does one word remind you of another word in the bank? If you need to, write down **synonyms** (different words with the same meaning) or **antonyms** (different words with the opposite meaning). Do those synonyms and antonyms remind you of the synonyms and antonyms of other words in the bank? Are there other ways you can make connections?
- If you don't know what a word means, try to find it in a dictionary. If you don't have one, try merriam-webster.com.

Word Bank

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|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| • shovel—n, v | • appease—v | • flabbergasted—adj |
| • apple—n | • skydive—v | • hamster—n |
| • shelves—n, v | • harrowing—adj | • clock—n, v |
| • secure—v, adj | • book—n, v | • sacred—adj |
| • pillows—n, v | • tissue—n | • flit—v |