

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Narrative Writing (Unit 4, pages 200–203)

Assignment: Write a one- to two-page narrative that could serve as an introduction to a longer work of fiction.

Mr. Patterson’s Party

Every summer I spend a week with my great-aunt Marilou at her house on the beach. However, last summer, I arrived at the train station to discover Marilou was not herself. Her curly red hair stuck out messily. She usually wore sundresses in the summer, but now she stood before me in sweatpants. She began complaining as soon as we climbed into her car.

“Parties, parties, parties,” she said. “Every night! The noise is drowning out the waves!”

When we got to her house, Marilou walked distractedly into the kitchen. She took out three tea bags and put them in the same cup. I set down my suitcase. The living room looked the same. Watercolor paintings cluttered the walls. The same hand-knitted afghans were folded and piled on the backs of the furniture as usual. But what had happened to my good-humored, peaceful aunt?

Then Marilou told me about the man who had moved into a new house down the beach from hers. His name was Mr. Patterson. She pulled me to the window and pointed across her sandy backyard to the largest, strangest house I’d ever seen. Painted purple and shaped like a miniature castle, the house reminded me of something from an old fairy tale. But this was real!

“His house is like a hotel. Guests are always coming and going, making a ruckus.”

“Have you talked to Mr. Patterson about this?” I asked.

“Hmmp!” Marilou said. “I wouldn’t talk to the likes of him.”

As we ate dinner that night, the sounds of an orchestra floated across the dunes. At first the music sounded pleasant, but by the time Marilou brought out the ice cream, the sounds of people at a party had grown louder than the nearby waves.

After dinner, I walked to the ocean to think about what I could do. Should I go talk to Mr. Patterson? Could I tell him the effect his parties were having on my aunt?

As I stood on the beach, gazing at the waves and moon, I saw a woman walking toward me from the direction of Marilou’s house. She wore a black sequined evening dress, and her red hair fell over her shoulders. She walked without turning her head, as if she were sleepwalking. When the woman reached me, I saw that it was Marilou! Only minutes before, she had been inside the house, sipping tea and wearing her sweatpants! I called out her name but, as if following another call, Marilou walked right past me and toward Mr. Patterson’s party.

Vivid details bring the main character to life.

Dialogue sounds realistic and advances the plot.

Uses a consistent point of view

Introduces a complication that will be resolved in future installments

Ending leaves the reader wanting more.

Summary: *This narrative focuses on an interesting complication and arranges events in a clear order. Well-chosen details and realistic dialogue quickly establish a vivid setting and engaging characters.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 100 if evaluated by the analytic method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.