

## Lesson 1: Introducing the Unit

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What's on for today and why:

This unit is intended to show the many faces of the Personal Narrative. Since that's a pretty dry topic we want to make this unit as much fun as we possibly can. By starting off with an exercise that engages the students' imaginations we should be able to spark an interest as well as aid in the comprehension.

What to do:

1) First ask the students to pair off and spend about five to ten minutes with one telling the other a story about something they did or something they think about. And the second partner telling a story about someone/something they heard second or third hand. Then ask them to write down the major points their partners made and make note of the tone of the stories and any underlying emotions in the voice or faces of their partners.

2) Then ask the students to share their findings with the class and explain that a story told in the first person about a personal experience is a personal narrative and talk about the difference between seeing/hearing a story firsthand as opposed to experiencing one from the perspective of third person.

How did it go?

If you've got students telling funny stories or emotional stories you are off to a wonderful start! The beauty of the personal narrative is that they are so completely imbued with emotions and self-reflection, which sets this genre apart from all other methods of storytelling. Having the other students tell less personal stories after hearing a personal one should give the students the comparison we are looking for without just handing them two stories and pointing out the differences.