

Lesson 6: Writing the Narrative

What's on for today and why: Today the students are going to get their first taste of writing a personal narrative. Using the novel as a template, the students should feel comfortable with writing their own narratives. But the act of writing should get them a little more invested in the novel and help them gain a deeper level of understanding about a personal narrative.

What to do:

- 1) First distribute handout #3 and then ask the students to turn to page 69 in *A Woman's Place*. This page is a very good example of a personal narrative that has action, emotion, introspection, but is rather short. Have one or two students read this page aloud and ask for volunteers who can cite why this is a good example of a personal narrative.
- 2) Now ask the students to look over the hints on the handout and begin writing their own short narratives. Give them at least 15-20 minutes to do this so that they don't feel rushed. The teacher should write one also.
- 3) Now ask for volunteers to read their narratives aloud. And discuss with the class if all of the elements they identified on page 69 were being met, but do NOT criticize because this is a first effort.
- 4) Homework: Follow the instructions on the back of handout #3 to create a personal narrative from the perspective of someone else to be handed in on day 14.

How did it go? This assignment could go many ways. If the students all get into writing the personal narratives you may not be able to get to everyone's or they may feel that the narratives are too personal to be read by anyone else. The main point is to get them writing and understanding how hard it is to write a personal narrative that actually goes somewhere instead of turning into a stream of thought poem. The homework should help the students understand the novel because Golden wrote the novel from differing first person perspectives and there is so much freedom there for them to find and explore.