

Writing • Personal Narrative

Key Features of Personal Narratives

- uses the first-person point of view (I, me)
- tells a story about a real event in your life
- shares thoughts and feelings about an event or time

Mom or Me

I knew it was going to be the best birthday party I'd ever been to. Maria's parents really wanted to celebrate her turning ten years old. They planned out an entire day of fun for her and her friends, including me!

We were going to begin the day with breakfast at a great restaurant called Good Morning. After that, we would go to a water park to ride the water slides and swim in the wave pool. Then we would go back to Maria's house for a cookout, including hot dogs and hamburgers. Later that night, we would roast marshmallows and make s'mores while we sat by the campfire. It was a day full of my favorite things!

The party was still a month away when I found out the date—August 2, my mom's birthday! Every year, my mom asked for only one gift from her family for her birthday. She

asked that we all be there with her to celebrate. We usually had dinner together and either went to see a movie or rented movies to watch at home. How could I go to Maria's all-day birthday party and still be there for my mom's birthday dinner?

When I revealed my problem to my mom, she smiled and told me that it was okay for me to miss her birthday this year. But she looked sad. I know how she liked having her whole family together. I knew what I had to do.

Everyone had a great time at Maria's birthday party except for me—but that's because I wasn't there! I surprised my mom by staying home to celebrate her birthday with her and our family. She was so happy that she cried. She told me that I gave her the best present she had ever gotten. I showed her just how important she is to me.

1. Reread the selection. What difficult decision does the writer face? How does he or she solve the problem?

2. What are the writer's thoughts and feelings about the friend's birthday party?
