

Adventures of Rodney The Road Apple

If you've ever written a story about yourself, then you've written a personal narrative. In a personal narrative, the writer uses the pronoun "I" to share his/her voice, or character. A well-written personal narrative can lead a reader to feel the story; it's full of life! In the following activity, a personal narrative will be written by Rodney the Road Apple (a piece of horse manure) and shared with others.



Objectives: To demonstrate knowledge about horse manure and how it's handled through a written personal narrative.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: None

Saddle Up: Read about the different fates of manure:

Manure can end up in an uncovered pile, a pile covered with a tarp, a pile in a manure storage structure, the back of a pick up truck, garbage can, a dumpster, a compost bin or pile or spread on a field. Because of the different ways manure can be handled it may take six months to many years for manure to break down.

Okay. Even this may be hard to believe, but YOU are now Rodney the Road Apple, or at least the voice of the adventurous Rodney! And what's even crazier is that you can't wait to write all about the ins-and-outs of your life living as manure the past year! Read, copy, and use the following prompt to kick-start your incredible Rodney the Road Apple story:

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Prompt: The last thing I remember is leaving the warm cozy environment I had so enjoyed. I hit the ground rather abruptly, and rolled a few feet. The next thing I knew...

Writing Tips:

- Use clue words like first, second, third, before, after, next, later, finally, days of the week, then, meanwhile, yesterday, and during.
- Write events and details in the order they happened in the story.
- Remember that a first person voice uses the pronoun "I" and lets the reader know that the writer is a lively character in the story.

Trail Talk: Talk about how interesting it would be if the animal kingdom could share their experiences using a first person voice. Imagine the wild stories a horse, mule, or barn cat could tell!

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Ride Further: Use these ideas to help better manage your manure:

- Cover your manure with a tarp to prevent rain water from creating runoff.
- Place your manure on a flat level surface away from hills and ditches.
- Keep your manure from surface and well water.



Horse manure composting



Pile of horse manure

We used Adventures of the Tongue-Licked Botfly as an example to write Adventures of Rodney the Road Apple. (JMH Level 2 – Pg 107)