What's Your Story? Write a story using the prompt below. Be sure to use descriptive details and a clear sequence of events.



On your birthday, a stranger came to your door and handed you a gift wrapped in plain brown paper. Write a story about what happened next.

What's Your Story?

Standards-Based Rubric

Use this rubric to assess your students' writing. Proficiency is aligned with the 5th grade standard for narrative writing.

	(1) Beginning	(2) Developing	(3) Proficient
Introduction	Narrator and/or characters are not clearly introduced; events lack a clear sequence.	Narrator and/or character(s) are introduced clearly but there is a lack of organizational structure; or character is somewhat unclear, but events unfold in a logical way.	A situation is established and a narrator and/or character(s) are introduced; the sequence of events is organized and unfolds naturally.
Technique	Narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, are missing.	Some narrative techniques are used, but may be inconsistent or do not support the flow of the story.	Narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, are used to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
Transitions	Transitional words are missing; there is no clear sequence of events.	Some transitional words are used, but may be inconsistent or do not support the sequence of events.	A variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses are used to manage the sequence of events.
Details	Sensory details and descriptive language are missing.	Some details or descriptive language are used, but events in the story remain unclear or flat.	Concrete words and phrases and sensory details are used to convey experiences and events precisely.
Conclusion	A conclusion is missing or unclear.	A conclusion is provided, but does not clearly follow the sequence of events.	A conclusion that follows the narrated experiences or events is provided.