



ELA/Literacy
Released Item 2017

Grade 6
Narrative Task
Approach and Style in Writing
VF633166

Today you will read the prologue to the story *Spy Cat*. As you read, pay close attention to each narrator's point of view. You will answer questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the prologue to the story *Spy Cat*. Then answer the questions.

Prologue from *Spy Cat*

by Peg Kehret and Pete the Cat

- 1** *Every animal, human or other, needs work that matters. I am Pete the cat, and I have more than one important responsibility. I'm an excellent lap-warmer, a fearless protector of my family, and a published author. You are reading my second book, and I must say that this part of my job doesn't get any easier.*
- 2** *When I first approached the keyboard, I had no desire for literary fame. I wanted to write because I had heard that every computer has a mouse. Then I got interested in the story that my person, Peg, was working on, so I began to add my ideas to hers. We ended up writing a novel together and we had fun doing it.*
- 3** When I first discovered that my big white-and-brown cat, Pete, knows how to read and write, I was shocked. His papers from the humane society said "good with children," but there was no hint of any literary ability, so you can imagine my surprise when he began adding pages to the book I was writing.
- 4** *I know how to talk, too, but she hasn't yet learned to understand me. Humans think they are smarter than the rest of us animals when any cat knows it's the other way around.*
- 5** In the first book that Pete and I coauthored, *The Stranger Next Door*, I wrote the parts about people and he wrote the parts about the cat. We did that with this book, too. His parts are in bold so you can tell which ones they are.
- 6** *Actually, the cat's parts are in italics because they are the most important.*

- 7** I thought Pete would get tired of writing after the first book, but when I started this story I left my computer on at night, in case he wanted to add something. Sure enough, the next morning there were two pages told from the cat’s point of view.
- 8** *She hasn’t grown tired of writing, so why would I? Writing is challenging, fun, and satisfying—like catching a fly. I used to spend my nights batting at catnip-scented balls and trying to wake up my people. Now I write novels because novelists get to go to bookstores and put their paw prints in their books. No one ever got famous by playing with catnip balls.*
- 9** All of the characters in this book except one are fictional. I’m sure you’ll be able to tell which one is real.
- 10** *There was no need to make up a cat character when a clever, courageous, and capable cat like me was willing to be in the story. If you ever need to describe me, remember the three C’s.*
- 11** It should really be four C’s—add one for “corpulent.”
- 12** *Corpulent! There isn’t an ounce of fat on me. That uninformed veterinarian who suggested diet cat food doesn’t know muscle when he sees it.*
- 13** Having a cat as my coauthor has worked well. The only problem we had on this book was when Pete kept changing the cover so that his name was in bigger letters than my name. Our editor vetoed that.
- 14** *I did most of the work, so I should get most of the credit, but I settled for extra kitty num-num.*
- 15** Enough of this explanation. Here is the second story that Pete and I wrote together.

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- 5.** The prologue to *Spy Cat* describes how Peg and Pete write books together. Think about Peg’s and Pete’s approach and style to writing and their individual personalities. Write an original story that shows the first time Peg and Pete write together. Be sure to use details in your story that demonstrate Peg’s and Pete’s distinctive qualities.

Anchor Set

A1 – A8

No Annotations Included

Peg sat down at the computer, her pile of research on cat behavior and close at hand. She planned to write a calm story about Pete, her pet cat, and his adoption. It would be a chapter book aimed at kids ages 8 to 12. It would be from both her own and Pete's point of view, and she wanted to pinpoint exactly what Pete would have been thinking at every moment (hence her research).

She started typing. *"It was a cold, dreary February day. I held in my arms a cute, little helpless-*

"MEOW!"

Peg started back in her office chair and realized that Pete, her cat, had somehow gotten himself up onto her keyboard. He had randomly deleted the last three words she had wrote. To her surprise, he kept hitting keys on the keyboard, and they all made sense.

"Oh my! This must be some freaky coincidence, I guess," exclaimed Peg.

The second sentence now read, *"I held in my arms a handsome, muscular and courageous cat, who thinks that it's a freak coincidence his owner didn't realize he could read and write before!"*

Peg's mouth slowly made an "O" shape, but she realized and abruptly closed it. "Something must be up with my glasses," she said reassuringly out loud to herself. "I must remember to book an appointment with my eye doctor tomorrow."

It's called an ophthalmologist, dearie, Pete typed into the computer. And you don't need to - unless it will interfere with how well you can read my brilliant writing. I will, of course, be coauthoring this book with you. But first, some things will have to change. First, never EVER describe me as helpless. Second, let's tweak the plot juuust a little. Instead of the story being how you adopted me, it'll be about my adventures with the dog next door. Third, it has to have action, adventure, hard choices, romance, and suspense. And fourth, it will all be told from my point of view, not yours. Now, I want a good title for this book within a time frame of 7 minutes. Start thinking now!

Peg stared dumbfounded at the screen. She could hardly believe it, but her cat could read and write! She didn't like how he had suddenly made himself the boss, but she had to admit Pete's story would sell better with kids than hers.

"Pete, I like this idea, but it can't be just about you. Your experiences with the dog Charles are just as interesting as mine with his owner. We'll have to figure out a system so that we both have our fair share of writing."

Pete studied her for a few moments, then typed, *Let's put my writing in italics to distinguish it from yours. We can alternate every few paragraphs. Also, are you thinking about the title?* There was a pause, then Pete excitedly wrote, *By george, I've got it! We'll call it The Stranger Next*

Door!

Peg smiled. It was indeed a perfect title for the book Pete had envisioned. She could tell it was going to be fun working with her cat, however difficult it might be.

Score

Anchor Paper 1

Written Expression

Score Point 4

One day, Peg and Pete were driving home from going to the vet. "I'm not fat," Pete mumbled. "I'm all-muscle". (Pete of course, is a cat and is talking in cat language) "Okay Pete," Peg said to Pete, who was in the back seat. "For now on, your eating the diet cat food!" Even a human could understand the complaining meow coming from Pete. "Oh, shush." Peg replied, as they were getting out of the car.

"Okay sweetie," cooed Peg. "I'm going in my room to start that novel I was thinking of writing. I'm thinking of writing a story about a mysterious stranger who moves next to the narrator." she said, as she walked into the room. Just before the door was all the way shut, Pete squeezed his plump, I mean, "Muscle-filled" body into the room. "Now where is that mouse?" Peg said, not noticing that Pete was in the room. "Mice? I love mice! I will find the mice!" said Pete, now stalking across the room to find the little rodent. "Ah, here it is," said Peg. When Pete saw it was made of plastic, he made another dissapointed meow. Still not noticing Pete, Peg plugged in the mouse, turned on her computer, and began writing.

Hours passed, and Pete was getting hungry. "I want food!" Pete said dramatically as loud as he could, which came out as a hiss. Tired, Peg said "Not now boy, I'm only on Chapter 10. Pete meowed and meowed until finally Peg sleepily got up, walked to the kitchen, and got a bowl of diet cat food ready. "Here you go," said Peg sluggishly. Then she walked back to her bedroom and instantly fell asleep. "About time." Pete mumbled as he inhaled all the food. "I want to go see if she meant a real mouse."

Pete walked into Peg's bedroom. "I remember how to do this," He said to himself. He pressed the on button and squished the mouse. Then he clicked on the little blot that looked like a peice of paper. Peg's story came up. Pete read it. "This is good," he thought. "But where are all the cats? A story isn't good without cats!" So he quickly added a few pages about what the cat thought and what the cat was doing. "Much better." he siad, and fell asleep.

When Peg woke up and saw her cat on the keyboard, she panicked. "Oh no!" said said. "what if he typed useless garbage?" So, she looked over the story. Everything was fine, but a few pages about cats were in there. "Theres no cat character..." Pete woke up and walked over the the computer. He started typing another page. "You...you can write?" Pete made a meow that sounded like "Duh!" As a very sensible woman, Peg did not start tearing her hair out in confusion. "this is really good Pete!" she said admiringly. "Want to help me with the rest?" Pete looked into the kitchen at his cat bowl and meowed. "No, if you help me no diet cat food." In font 72, Pete typed "I'M IN!", and after that, they always wrote together, and made wonderful stories. (That of course had a cat character)

Score

Anchor Paper 2

Written Expression

Score Point 4

My name is Peg. Im a writer. I started writing my first book two days ago. The night that i started, I only had one page written. I woke up to the next morning to find three pages written! I was shocked! I lived by myself, with my cat Pete, so i was really frightened. I sat down and started to read my book. I realized that the extra two pages were written in the cats point of view.

Peg didnt know it was me writing in her book until one week later. It was around 2:00 am, and i couldnt go to sleep. I started writing in Peps book again. It was quiet, i thought everything was all right.

But it wasn't, because that night i couldn't go to sleep either. I woke up and I went downstairs for a cup of water. As i walked down the stairs, I thought of my book. I didn't know who was writing in my book, but i did know they were writing at night. Then i shivered at the thought of someone in my house writing. I stopped walking. I was going to figure out who was writing in my book. So I went to my living room and found my-

Cat. She found me. I looked up at her to tell her to go back to sleep but all that came out was a simple "meow". But that didn't mean I couldn't talk. It simply meant that I wasn't ready to.

I remember that night. To my suprise, i wasn't scared, mad, or frightened. I wasn't even suprised! I knew that Pete was very smart and intelligent.

Smart and intelligent indeed. I'm a really good writer and I'm excited to start working with my person, Peg.

You are working as my coauthor, Pete.

*Everyone knows that cats are smarter then humans, so no. You are **my** coauthor, Peg. I wrote most of the book and you know it.*

Ugh, whatever you say Pete.

That's what i thought.

Score

Anchor Paper 3

Written Expression

Score Point 3

One day, a girl named Peg decided she'd write about people. She started the next day on her novel. She had a pet cat named Pete who later has human characteristics.

One week later, Peg thought her story was going great. After a long day behind the computer, she decided it was time to go to bed. For some reason, the day they got Peg, she had a weird feeling about him.

The next morning, Peg went to her computer and somehow, there was more writing on her computer. She went and asked her mom if she went and typed some extra things on her computer. Her mom said that she didn't know what she was talking about. So Peg went to where her dad's room used to be and took a game camera. She set it up that day and after thinking for a while in her bed, she finally went to bed.

In the morning, she checked the camera. There were about 20 pictures on it! Immediately she took the sd card out of the game camera and put it in her computer. She saw something she'd never ever seen in her life. Her cat, Pete on her computer typing. If she would of payed more attention to what he typed, she would of realized that all the details that he put down were about cats.

She left her computer out again that night and just acted like she was asleep. When she heard something like typing she looked up. Sure enough, it was Pete. She stood up and asked what he was doing, he ran off. Later that night, she got up to check what he typed. She realized that it was pretty good.

The next night, she walked up to Pete and grabbed him. When Pete was in her room, She asked him if he wanted to help. Pete stood up and moved the mouse to the computer, the wallpaper said: CAN I HELP YOU WITH YOUR WRITING? Of course she said yes.

Two weeks later, they finished their novel. Pete would write about cats and Peg would write about people. They made a great team. After getting their book published, a few months later, they got a phone call that they they won the Newbery Award. They were so excited.

Score

Anchor Paper 4

Written Expression

Score Point 3

This is a story about how Pete and Peg wrote their first story. Peg was just on the computer typing a story for school when she left the computer on. The next morning she saw that two pages of her story had been written. She had nobody else that lived with her except her cat Pete. So she decided to do the same thing the next night, but secretly watch the computer to see if they would do it again. Sure enough they did but by that time she had fallen asleep. So she decided to set up a camera. So she did. The next night she caught her culprit. It was her cat Pete. So she told him that he didn't have to hide it anymore and they could write it together. So that night Pete wrote on the computer okay. So they started writing the story together. They did have some different opinions on how and what to write about, but they finally figured out what to write about. They titled it The Stranger Next Door. They were both thrilled about writing this book that they had to write another one. This one was called the spy cat. Pete might be greedy and take all of the credit but Pete and Peg are best friends and always will be. If you ever see in the store The Stranger Next Door or Spy Cat you should buy it read it and think wow a cat and a person did this, and hey if a cat can be inspired to write then so can you. So if you have a dream of being a writer then follow that dream. And who knows maybe your pet will help you.

Score

Anchor Paper 5

Written Expression

Score Point 2

Hi i'm Pete the cat and I love writing, I can talk too. I have an owner and his name is Peg. Whenever Peg learned I could talk he freaked out and didn't belive it. After Peg calmed down we talked and turns out he likes writing too. So we started writing together and came out with our first book, "**The Stranger Next Door**," first we gave a copy to Peg's friend to see if he like it. Well not only did he like it he loved it so, after that we took it to a publishing company and they loved it too. So they published it and every body loved it too. We got calls saying that we should make a lot more books. Then we got a call from a library and they wanted us to do a book signing, and we said yes. Later in the week about Thursday, we went down to the library and there was a line all the way out to where we parked. Everybody loved us and they were so happy to see us and talk to us. We signed over 1,000 books that day. We didn't go home till about 2:00 a.m. and when we got home we went strait to bed.

Score

Anchor Paper 6

Written Expression

Score Point 2

I am peg a girl i am writing a story called the stranger next door about a human and a cat's adventure together. I left my keyboard on and when i woke up i saw a part of the story writtten from the cat's perspective in italics. What my cat can read and write and type.*Of course I can write, read, and type I am a professional. I was waiting for my people family to get up while playing with catnip balls and then I saw the computer. The document on the computer was about the adventure of a cat and a human and so I wrote a part from the cat's perspective. To help my people friend Peg.*

These are the distinctivve qualities between Pete the cat and Peg the human.

Score

Anchor Paper 7

Written Expression

Score Point 1

The first time when Pete and Peg started writing together was like any other day. though when Peg wrote the the first three pages Pete started to get the hang of it. though he really wanted to play the "mouse". Pete started to add pages and pages to the story. They worked together so great that not even an expert can compete with them.

Finally when they finished there first book tehy started making more and more. they started going to libaries to sell there books and becoming rich as Adam Sandler. they worked great together because they were great friends. No on can break them apart. Thank You

Score

Anchor Paper 8

Written Expression

Score Point 1

The first time Peg and Pete wrote together was when Peg was at the computer desk Pete came over and was all up on him and they started talking then they just meet each other from there and Peg and Pete started communicating with each other and that is how Pete and Peg meet each other and it went from there.

Score

Anchor Paper 9

Written Expression

Score Point 0

Peg and Pete would create a book about a cat world or something because they are cats and all. **It would be called Peg and Pete's adventure.** They would go to a cat world and find a way back home to write another story, book, or a novel.

Score

Anchor Paper 10

Written Expression

Score Point 0

Practice Set

P101 - P105

No Annotations Included

It was a dark night. The wind blew in all the directions. It was really cold;however,I didn't stop looking. I searched through every dark alley to check if he was there,but he wasn't. I had to contact Mr. Pete. We couldn't give up on finding this criminal so soon. The crime was in the jewelry store in where the most valuable gems were kept. Unfortunaltely, he managed to escape.

I am Pete and I try to figure out what is going on ,and so does Peg. Peg and I think that he will try to rob the Rose Ruby. This is a valuable stone kept in Mark Jewls. We will be waiting for him there. I will soon arrive in my black car and hide inside the shop.

Pete and I arrive at the shop at exactly midnight. We hid behind the cabinets in our camoflouge suits. Suddenly,we heard a loud thump! The door opened and a shadow was standing in the door step. Pete and I peered at the door. It was a tall person with black clothing all over. At first we thought that it was a man ,but now we can't tell what it is now.

I had a plan. Soon, I acted without thinking. Suddenly, I went to the middle of the room and started to cry. The criminal dropped the Rose Ruby on the ground. Fortuanatly,the ruby didn't break,because Peg caught it. The criminal dropped his or her jaw and got down on its knees then took its scarf off from its face and wrapped it around me. I was in shock! The criminal was a young woman with black hair and green eyes. I did a signal to Peg. MEOW! Peg turned around and hand cuffed the woman. Her face looked glum; however, it was her fault for taking stuff that weren't hers.

1. Every animal, human or othe, needs work that matters.i am pete the cat, and i have mory than one important responsibility. i'm an excellent lap-warmer, a fearless protector of my family, and a publised author. you are reading my second book, and i mst sey that this part of my job doen't get any easier.Enogh of this explanation.
2. Here is the second story that pete and i wrote together.All of the characters in this boook except one are fictional. i'm sure you'll be able to tell which one is real. Actually, the cat's parts are in italics because they are the most important. it should really be four C's- add on for "corpulent."
3. i did most of the work, so i should grt most of the credit, but i settled for extra kitty num- num.

I am Pete the cat me and my friend my Peg wrote a story together. It started with Peg when, when Peg started typing on the computer something got to me. I should do it. I did because I thought the mouse was an actual mouse, but it was different. Me and bonded and started writing creative things. Such as I was doing the part of the human and he was doing the part of the cat. One night I left the computer open for him if he wanted to add on. In the morning when I woke up the computer had to pages describing the cat. Me and Peg have similar things such as we have when we write together. Another one is when we put our ideas together and we agree that it is perfect for the story.

Today was the day Peg was waiting for. Ever since she left her parents' house to buy her own home, things had been pretty lonely. It hadn't been the loneliness itself that bothered her. She thought the independence was *great!* What really bothered her was the lack of inspiration. Back at home she could write marvelous pieces. She wrote about her familie's crazy antics. She wrote about everyone's accomplishments. The readers ate it up. Now that she was all alone she had no one to write about but herself, and she thought that she was pretty boring.

Peg thought of the idea one day when she was brain storming ideas for her next best seller. *I need some sort of companion. Someone to inspire me.* She thought. *That's it!* She stood up, grabbed her keys and coat, and hopped in her car. *I need a pet.*

Peg had no idea what to get. *A bird? Dog? Snake? Lizard?* Ideas swirled in her head. She walked in the pet store and was astonished by the selection. She saw species she didn't even knew exists. But there was one animal that stood out to her. It was a cat. A fat, tired, old cat.

"What can I help you with today Miss?" A store associate asked.

"A cat...get me it. I want that cat." Peg stammered.

"Right awat Ma'am! This cat has been here for years. Ever since he was a kitten actually. No one has even thought to adopt him!" The store associate rambled on and on.

Peg brought the cat home and named it Pete. Pete The Cat. She set him on his new bed, and put a boal of kibble next to him. He just stared.

"Hi Pete! I'm Peg. I'll be taking care of you!"Peg cooned.

Pete just stared, unamused. Peg took Pete and put him in her lap. She nuzzled him and scratched his ears. For the first time ever Pete was happy. He felt loved, so he purred. Peg set him back down to get back to work, Slightly disappointed, Pete went to sleep.

An hour later Pete woke up startled, to Peg's yelling.

"AH! THIS COMPUTER MOUSE NEVER WORKS! I HATE THIS DUMB COMPUTER!" Too frusterated to do anything else Peg went up stairs and took a nap.

Pete heard the word "mouse" and was suddenly interested. He leaped from his bed and jumped to the counter. Disapointed to see that there was no real mouse helooked at the monitor. He also saw a keyboard.

Hey I've seen one of these before! He thought. He typed his paws on the keys making words. He reviewed Peg's story about him and made a few revisions. He added and deleted and fixed all night. In the morning he felt overwelmongly tired. He jumped in bed and fell back asleep. When Peg came down she was shocked! She woke up Pete and set him up on the computer to see if it was really him. Aware of the test Pete happily skipped across the keys saying. *Hi Peg thank you for adopting me. You are the best owner in the World. I love you.*

Hi, I am pete the cat. I know that i am a cat and u are probably freaked out but cates are very smart. I can do lots of things i can wirite i can talk and lots of other stuff. My owner peg wites and i saw her computer lying on the chair, and i herd my owners parebts talking about a computeres and they said they use the mouse. So i went to check it out. It turns out that a mouse is just a thing u use for clicking and pointing to stuff. Then i started typed and found out that writind or typed a story is pretty fun.

Hi, my name is peg i am the cat petes owner. I like to write i have been writing since i was a little girl i love it . One night i just wdalking in myliving room to watch tv and my cat pete was sitting there typeing. I never knew that i had a cat that could tped. when i got him from the adoption center it said loving cat noting else. i ownd what surprise he is goign to surpriie me with?

*Hey pegg guess what? What pete? I can sing and talk. I like to talk i like to talk . Twinkle twinkle little stsar ahow i wonder what u are aup a bove the world so high like a diamond in the sky. See i can sing. **We needto do a talent shoe pete.** Ya peg. **The only thing available is a dancing contest. Oh i can dance not only can i dance but i can flip to.** wo i have the *best cat ever* . You just know realized that? Just kidding. Lets go to that telent show. **Ya!***

We are alnost hear. ya we are hear. Lets go dance. Ya lets go. i will take the lead. ya we are done. tha was so much fun. I think we are going to win this.me to.yaaaaa we won i knew we would win. me to. alright lets go home know and get some food. sounds good to me!

Practice Set

(Order of Scores: Written Expression, Conventions)

Paper	Score
P101	3,2
P102	0,0
P103	1,1
P104	4,3
P105	2,1