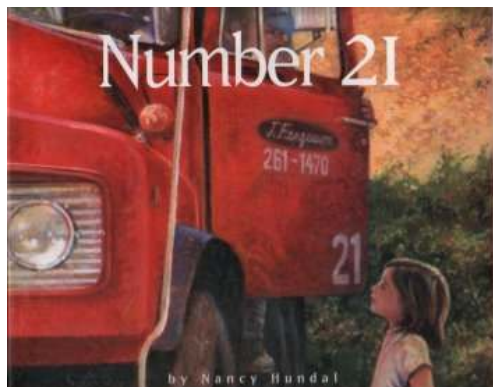


## Writing Trait: Ideas and Organization

Learning Intention: This book is used at the beginning of a memoir unit to teach students that a narrow writing focus produces a better memoir. Why? Because it allows the writer to include lots of wonderful details. And readers crave details!

carol.walters@sd71.bc.ca



By Nancy Hundal

### Before Reading

Learning Outcomes: A1, A4, A6, B5,

Before reading have students ask a variety of questions based on the front cover illustration and the title. If students begin making comments rather than asking questions, have them begin with the words, "I wonder..."

After listening to their questions, explain that this is a real story that took place when the author was a young girl. Nancy Hundal is retelling one of the stories from her life.

### During Reading

Learning Outcomes: B6,

Ask students to listen carefully to the events in this book. Explain that you will be asking how long would it take for these events to actually occur? Give the following options for students to choose:

- one year
- a month
- a full day
- an afternoon

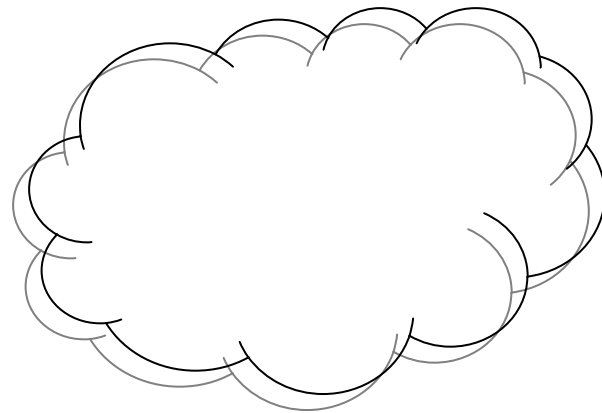
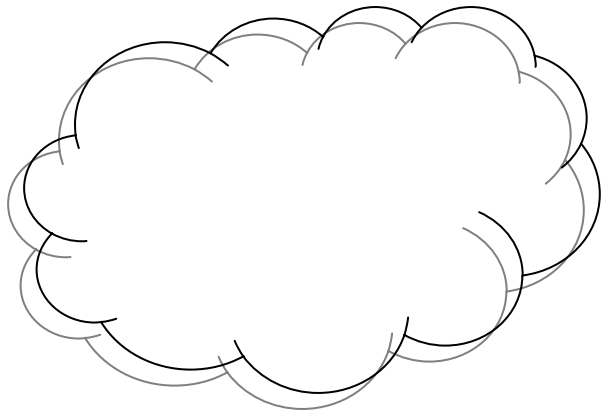
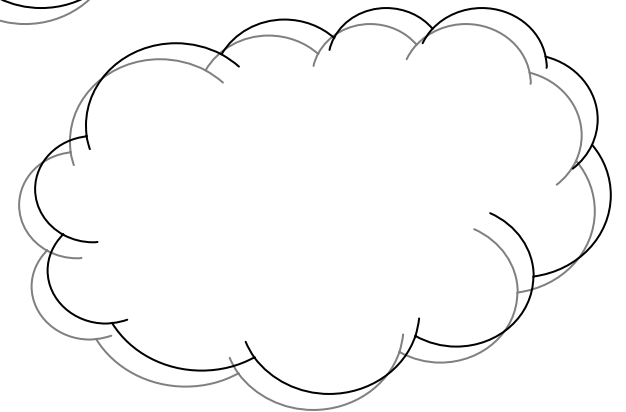
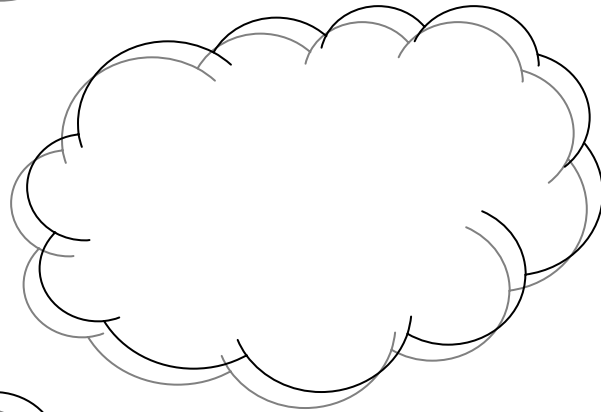
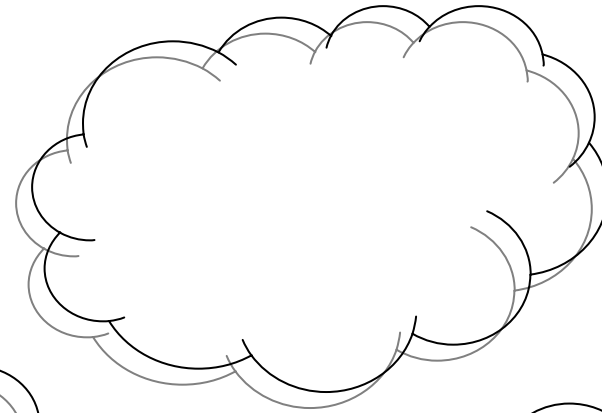
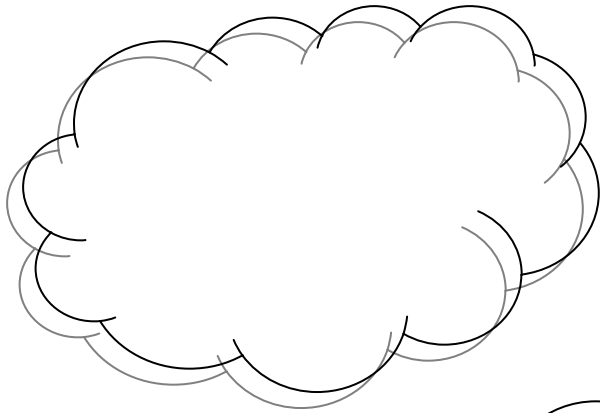
### After Reading

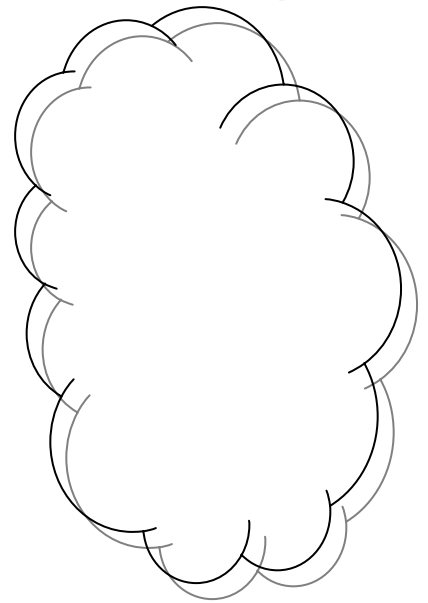
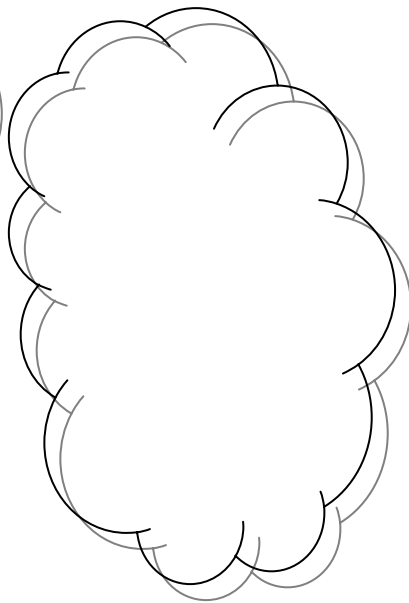
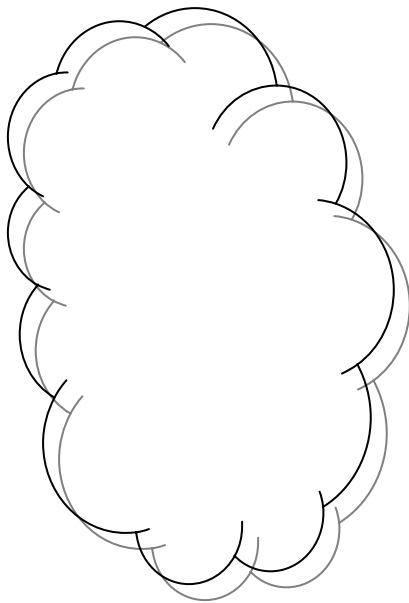
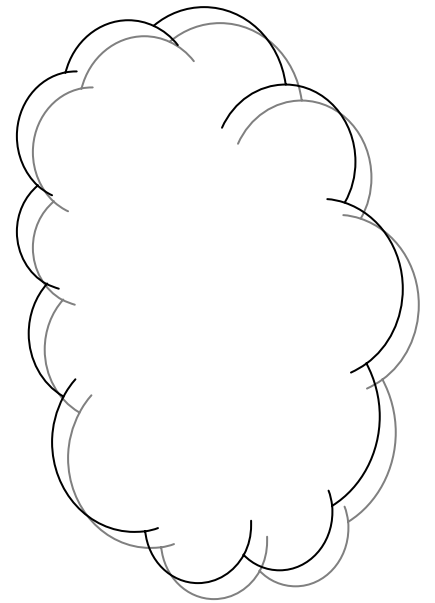
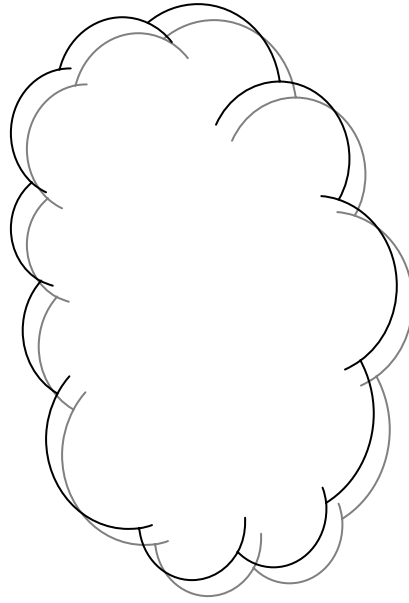
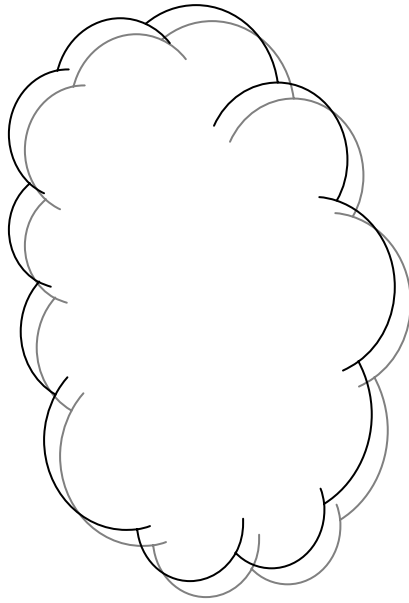
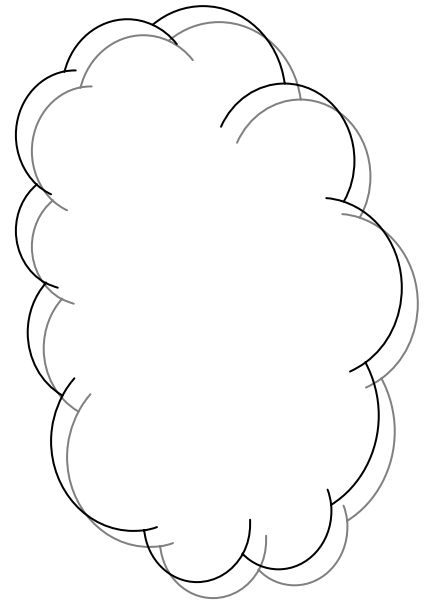
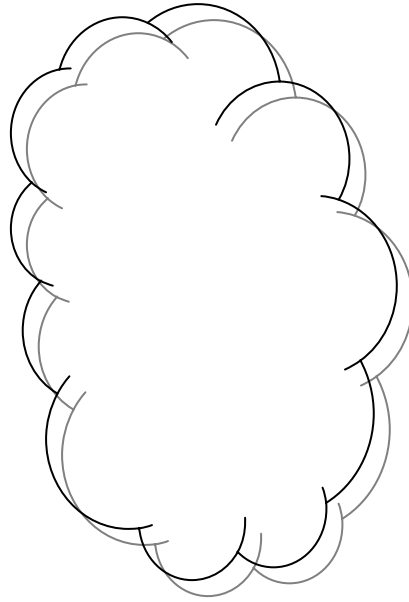
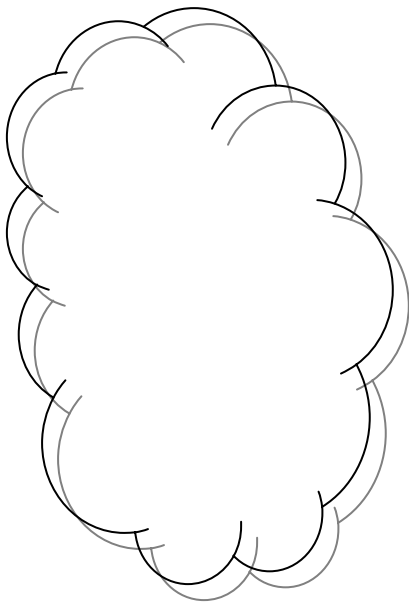
Learning Outcomes: B7, B8, B11, C4

After listening to this memoir, tally the responses to the questions above. It may be necessary to walk through the events and ask how long would each take, then add up the total amount of time. We want students to understand that some of the best stories we can tell, occur in a very brief amount of time. For instance, instead of writing about all the events that happened during a week of school, a more powerful piece of writing would zoom in on one event that occurred during the week.

Once our students understand that a memoir needs a very precise focus, it's time to gather topics that will fuel their writing throughout this unit. Use any of the following pages to find memoir-worthy topics.

# My Memoir Writing Ideas: Explode the Moment!





# Journal Writing Ideas

by: \_\_\_\_\_

... something I dislike

... a fear?

...a thing I love

... a scary time

...an annoying thing

... what I worry about

... a favourite dream

... a food I love

... this makes me cry

... my favourite possession  
in the world

... this makes me special  
and unique

... in my future ...

... the best part about me

... a time I was lost

... I'm brave at ...

... I'm shy when...

... I get compliments for ...

... when I am 18 years  
old ...

... a time I was a poor  
loser

... recall the details of a  
funny event

# More Journal Writing Ideas

... a time I was a very good friend	.. the best thing in your life so far	... the best idea I've ever had?	... recall a time you were driving in a car	... what is your first memory?
... I deserve a meal for...	... what's your nickname? Why?	... I get nervous when ...	... the nicest thing I've ever done someone?	... describe a perfect parent
... describe a chore you have	.. write about a change in your family	... a favourite relative is...	... how I convince my parents	... a time my brother or sister made me angry
... if you had a suggestion box at your house, what suggestions would be made?	... I was really honest when....	... my bedroom	... a time I was hurt...	... a pajama event

# A Map of My Life Stories

Examples from writingfix.com



# A Map of My Life Stories

