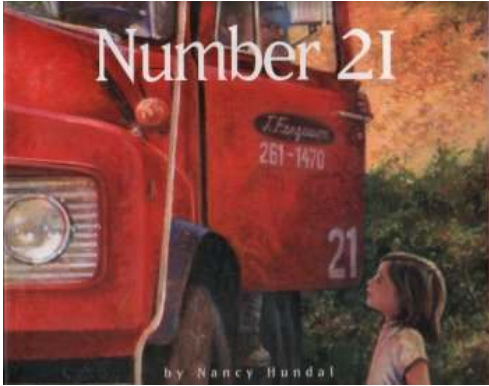


Writing Trait: Ideas

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 make predictions based on the front cover illustration and the title.

Explain that this is a real story that took place when the author was a young girl. Nancy Hundal is retelling on of the stories from her life.

During Reading

Learning Outcomes: B6,

Ask students to listen carefully to the events in this book. Have students think about the period of time it would have taken for these events to unfold.

After Reading

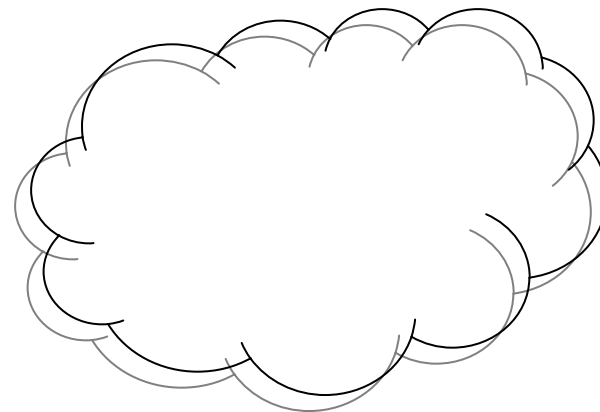
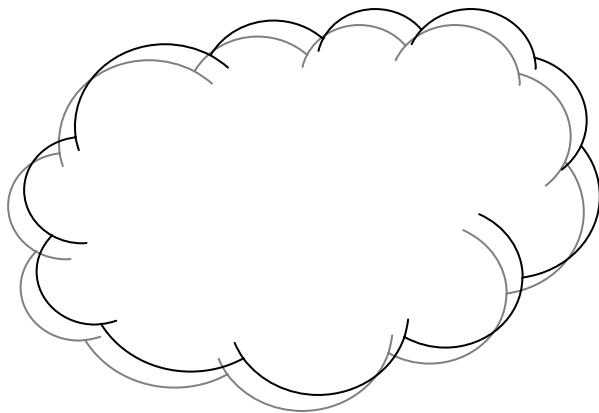
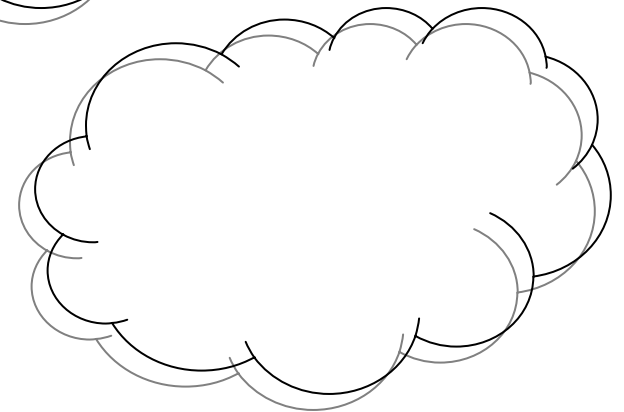
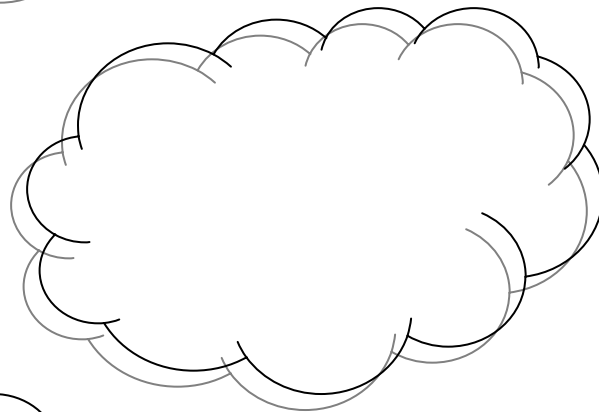
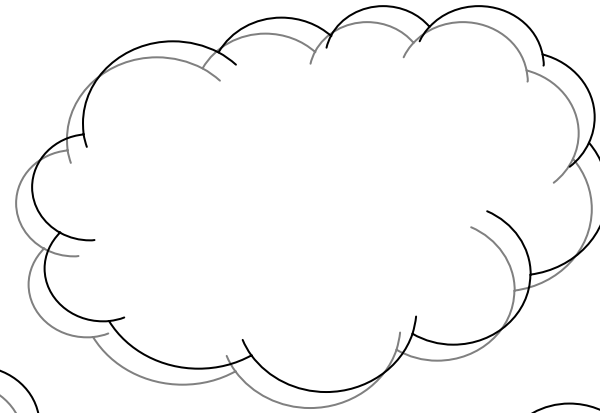
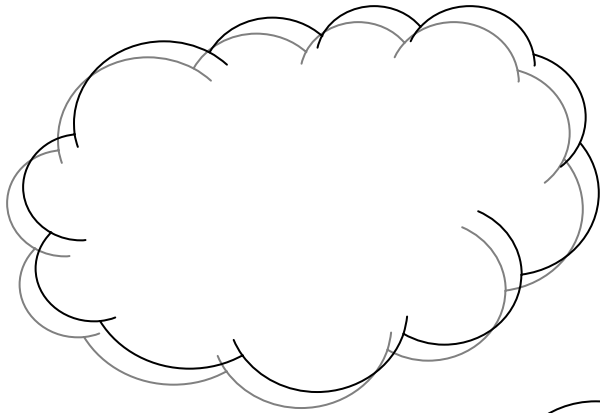
Learning Outcomes: B7, B8, B11, C4

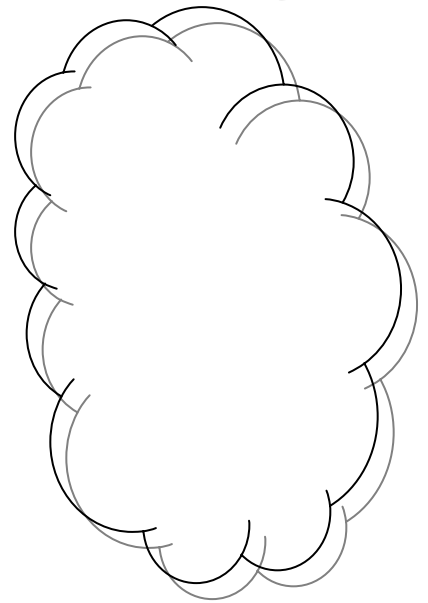
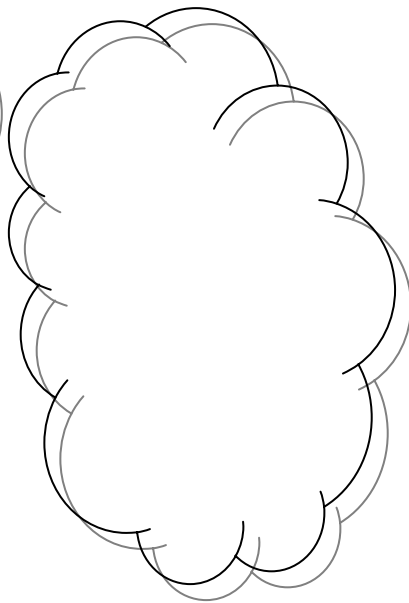
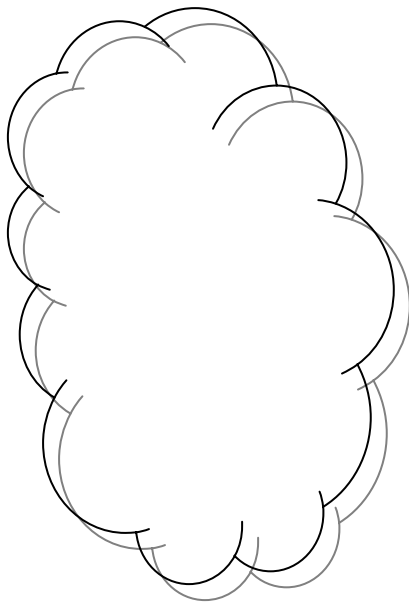
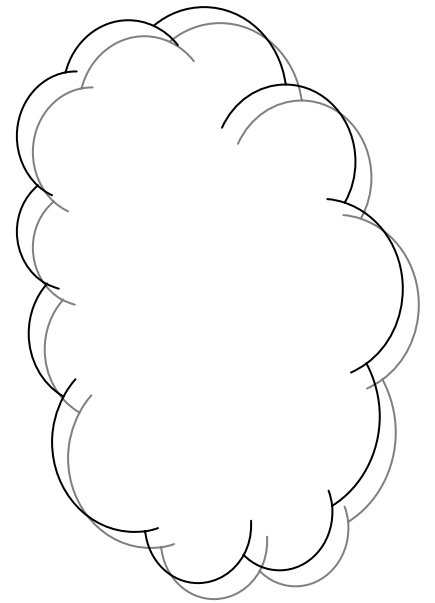
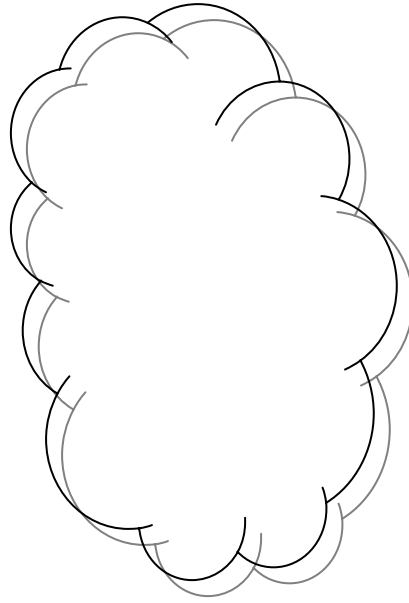
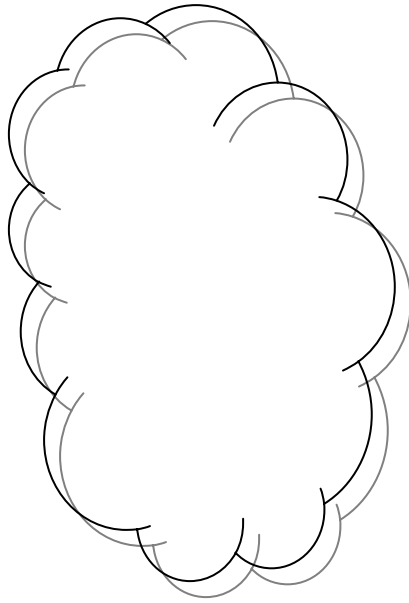
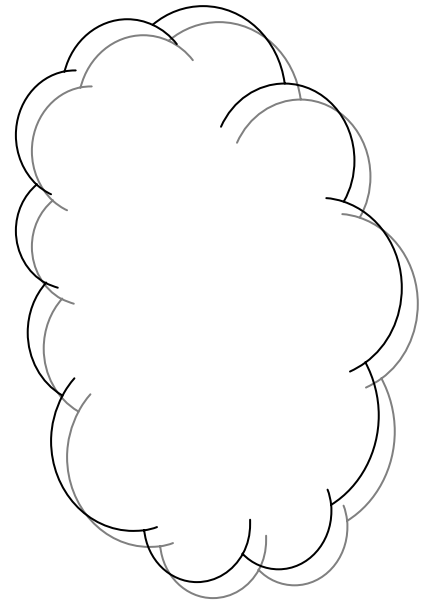
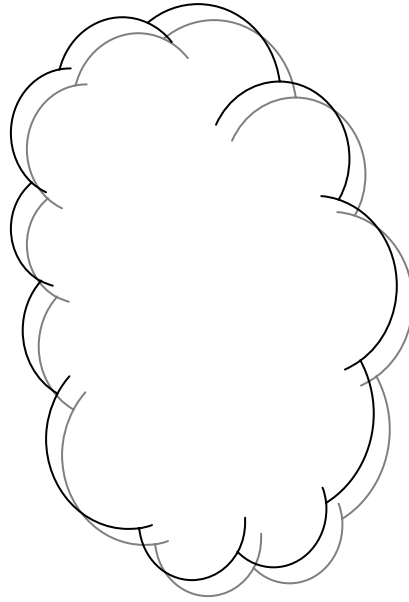
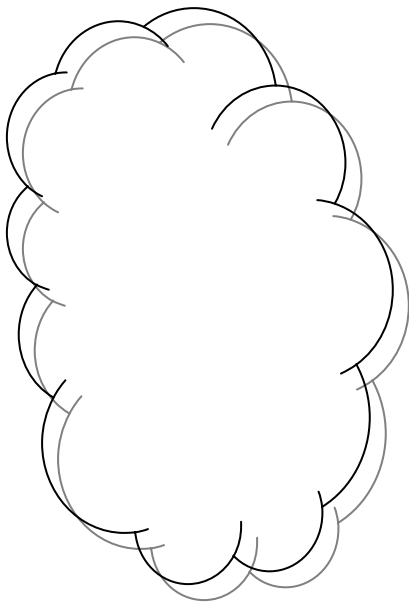
After listening to this memoir, discuss the question above. We want students to understand that some of the best stories we can tell, occur in a very brief amount of time. For instance, instead of writing about all the events that happened during a week's vacation, a more powerful piece of writing would zoom in on one event that occurred.

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. That way, when one memoir is finished, students may move onto another in a seamless fashion. Use any of the following pages to find memoir-worthy topics.

Memoir Writing Ideas by :

Explode the Moment with a Narrow Focus





Journal Writing Ideas

by: _____

... what you like or dislike about your name

... what is your worst fear?

...what do you love or dislike about your house?

... tell the story of a scare you have

...what annoys you?

... what do you worry about?

... what is your favourite dream?

... what food do you absolutely love?

... who or what makes you laugh so hard you cry?

... what is your favourite possession in the world?

... what makes you special and unique?

... predict five things about your future.

... what do you like most about yourself?

... explain a time you were lost.

... when do you feel brave?

... recall a situation in which you were shy?

... retell the time you received a compliment .

... write about a day when you are 18 years old. what is each part of your day like?

... share a time when you were a poor loser

... recall the details of a funny event

More Journal Writing Ideas

... tell of a time in which you were a very good friend.	.. what's the best thing you've done in your life so far?	... what's the best idea you've ever had?	... recall a time you were hurt	... what is your first memory?
... explain something you've done that deserves a medal.	... what's your nickname? Why?	... tell of a time in which you were nervous.	... what's the nicest thing someone has ever done for you?	... describe a perfect parent.
... describe a chore you have	.. write about a change in your family	... explain why a certain relative is a favourite.	... if you were a parent, how would you get your child to do something they didn't want to do?	... what does your brother or sister do that makes you angry?
... if you had a suggestion box at your house, what suggestions would be made?	... recall a time in which you were honest.	... why do some moms and dads get divorced?	... what can you do to make sure you don't get the flu?	... what would life be like as an adult if you didn't know how to read?

Memor Worthy Topics:

By: _____

obsessions

idiosyncrasies

problems

favourites (of anything ... food, books, games)

dreams

teachers

itches

places

bites

sports

confusions

music

risks

songs

worries

pet peeves

friends

loved objects

fads

hobby

More Memoir Worthy Topics

earliest memory	couldn't forget
family incident	friend incident
pet incident	school incident
getting hurt incident	home incident
I was surprised	this changed my thinking
completely happy/relaxed	I laughed and laughed
my heart was breaking	a moment with dad, mom, brother, sister
a moment with cousin, aunt or uncle	learned something for the first time
favourite food	a family dinner together
a favourite moment this summer	a scared moment

A Map of My Life Stories

Examples from writingfix.com



A Map of My Life Stories

