



EXPEDITIONARY  
LEARNING

# Grade 8: Module 3A: Unit 3: Lesson 4

## Narrative Writing: Planning the Plot



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Narrative Writing:  
Planning the Plot

Long-Term Target Addressed (Based on NYSP12 ELA CCLS)	
I can write narrative texts about real or imagined experiences using relevant details and event sequences that make sense. (W.8.3)	
Supporting Learning Targets	Ongoing Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can use a story map to plan a well-organized narrative that describes the moment when Miné Okubo “became visible again.”</li> <li>I can understand the rubric for the narrative writing performance task.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment story map</li> </ul>

Agenda	Teaching Notes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging the Writer: Planning the Narrative (5 minutes)</li> <li>Reviewing Learning Targets (1 minute)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Work Time               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Becoming Visible Again: Mapping the Model Narrative (28 minutes)</li> <li>Becoming Visible Again: Mapping My Narrative (10 minutes)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Closing and Assessment               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previewing Homework (1 minute)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Homework               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish mapping out your narrative on the Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment story map. Be prepared to share your story map and explain why you included these details during a peer critique in the next lesson.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In this lesson, students synthesize what they learned about Miné Okubo’s life from their brief research (during Lesson 3) with their understanding of what makes a strong narrative (which they began learning about when writing their two-voice poem in Unit 1) to build toward writing their final performance task.</li> <li>By reading and discussing the model narrative, students get a sense of the performance task’s ideal length and style. They consider how the model addresses the standards on the rubric. Plotting the events from the model narrative onto the story map helps them understand how their own narrative should be organized and sequenced.</li> <li>Students do not have a lot of time to work on their story maps during this lesson. Their homework will be to finish their planning so they are ready for peer critique during Lesson 5.</li> <li>Post: Learning targets.</li> </ul>



**Narrative Writing:**  
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Lesson Vocabulary	Materials
well-organized, plot, exposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment model (one per student and one to display)</li><li>• Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment rubric (from Lesson 2; one to display)</li><li>• Document camera</li><li>• Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment story map (two per student and one to display)</li><li>• Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment story map model (for teacher reference)</li><li>• Gathering Textual Evidence: Becoming Visible Again after Internment note-catcher (from Lesson 3)</li></ul>



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Opening	Meeting Students' Needs
<p><b>A. Engaging the Writer: Planning the Narrative (5 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite students to turn and talk about their homework, explaining to each other why they chose that particular moment from Miné's life to write about.</li> <li>• After a few minutes, ask students who chose Moment A ("1944: Walter Cronkite interview") to raise their hands. Cold call a student to explain why he or she chose that moment to write about.</li> <li>• Repeat with each of the other three choices.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>B. Reviewing Learning Targets (1 minute)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the first learning target aloud while students read along silently:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* "I can use a story map to plan a well-organized narrative that describes the moment when Miné Okubo 'became visible again.'"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Point out that the learning target uses the term <i>well-organized</i>. Explain that students will use a story map to keep their thoughts organized as they plan the plot of their narrative today.</li> <li>• Ask for a volunteer to explain what a <i>plot</i> is. Listen for: "A plot is the storyline of a text" or "The plot is all of the events that happen in a text."</li> <li>• Read the second learning target aloud while students read along silently:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* "I can understand the rubric for the narrative writing performance task."</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Explain that students will use a model narrative and the rubric throughout today's lesson to better understand the performance task before they write it.</li> </ul>	



Narrative Writing:  
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Work Time	Meeting Students' Needs
<p><b>A. Becoming Visible Again: Mapping the Model Narrative (28 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell students that, although they will use <i>Unbroken</i> as a model for the kind of writing they are practicing in the performance task, it will be helpful to have a model narrative that is the same length as the one they will write to help them see what the final project will look like.</li> <li>• Distribute the <b>Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment model</b> and read it aloud while students read along silently.</li> <li>• Ask:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* “In this narrative, what was the moment when Miné ‘became visible again?’”</li> </ul> <p>Listen for: “when she saw her drawings featured on the cover of a magazine.”</p> </li> <li>• Have students take out their copies of the <b>Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment rubric</b>, which they received during Lesson 2, as you display a copy using a <b>document camera</b>. Draw students’ attention to the Content and Analysis row and have a student read the 3 box aloud:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* “The narrative builds from informational texts about Okubo’s life to describe her process of becoming ‘visible’ after internment.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ask:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* “Does this model narrative build from informational texts about Okubo’s life? How do you know?”</li> </ul> <p>Listen for students to point out that the model includes many details from the informational texts, such as her brother’s name, the specific camps they were sent to, and the fact that Okubo left the camp to work for a magazine in New York.</p> </li> <li>• Explain that, since students have just found evidence that the model builds on informational texts, it would receive a score of at least 3 on this rubric. Invite students to turn and read the 4 box with someone next to them. Ask:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* “How does a narrative scoring a 4 in this category differ from one scoring a 3?”</li> </ul> <p>Listen for students to point out that the rubric uses the phrases “makes inferences” and “creatively imagine” to describe a 4 narrative. Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* “Does this model narrative deserve a 4? Why or why not?”</li> </ul> <p>Listen for students to say that this model deserves a score of 4, since it draws on evidence from informational texts (e.g., the fact that Okubo went to work for a magazine) but makes inferences (e.g., the idea that Okubo might be “terrified” to return to free society) and creatively imagines descriptive details (e.g., the image of Okubo carrying her rolled-up drawings inside her bag as she leaves the gate).</p> </li> </ul>	



Narrative Writing:  
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Work Time (continued)	Meeting Students' Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display a copy of the Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment model using the document camera. Briefly annotate it to reflect students' ideas about its use of textual evidence and its score on the rubric. (For example, you might underline the sentence "I have been hired as a magazine artist" and write, "Explicit use of evidence," or underline "My drawings of life inside the camp are carefully rolled up inside my bag" and write, "Creative imagining.")</li> <li>• Display the Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment rubric again. Draw students' attention to the Cohesion, Organization, and Style rows and explain that you will work on those aspects of the narrative next. Ask students to turn and talk:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* "What are the basic parts in a narrative?"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remind them that they have already studied narrative writing this year (with their <i>Inside Out &amp; Back Again</i> poems in Module 1 and <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> analysis and Readers Theater in Module 2A). In this narrative, they will include similar parts, although it is not written as poetry.</li> <li>• After a few moments, cold call students to share the parts of a strong narrative, including an exposition (opening) and closing. (If students struggle to remember the parts of a narrative, ask them to look back at the rubric.)</li> <li>• Explain that this narrative follows a plot structure they worked with during Module 2A and their study of <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (if they completed that module).</li> <li>• Distribute the <b>Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment story map</b> to each student and display a copy using the document camera. Point out the major parts of the plot structure that students did not mention during the review a moment ago: the rising action, which includes several complications; the climax, which is the moment of highest action and excitement in the narrative; and the reflection, which helps lead to the conclusion. Remind students that their narratives will all end with the same sentence: "I was/am visible again".</li> <li>• Tell students that the model narrative follows this plot structure. Ask:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* "What events in the model narrative make up the exposition?"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filling in the story map for the model narrative may be time-consuming for some students; consider providing these students with an annotated copy of the model that has key sections highlighted and numbered. Students would write a number into each box of the story map, rather than rereading the entire model and copying down details into the boxes. (For example, you might highlight "I turn a corner and there it is—my art, splashed carelessly across the wall. I was a different person when I made this. I existed. People could see me. Now I am a shadow" and number it "2." If a student thought this was the first complication of the rising action, he or she would write "2" in the first "Complication" box.)</li> </ul>



Narrative Writing:  
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Work Time (continued)	Meeting Students' Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen for students to say that the first three paragraphs of the model narrative make up the exposition, since they give the historical context of the narrative (“I have lived behind the barbed-wire fence of an internment camp for the last two years. My brother, Toku, and I were forced to relocate after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941”), introduce the narrator (“We were both born and raised in California. I don’t even speak Japanese, but the government was convinced that I was a threat because of my jet-black hair, my Japanese ancestors, my hard-to-pronounce name”), and tell readers the narrator’s perspective on internment (“My identity is a number. My name has been erased. I am invisible”). Write these details in the Exposition box of the displayed story map and have students do the same on their own maps. Point out that this part of the narrative has to do with the thematic concept of invisibility.</li> <li>• Tell students to continue working to fill in the story map on their own. Circulate as they work to ensure that they understand which parts of the narrative fill each role in the plot. (Use the Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment story map model as a reference.) Make note of students who seem to be struggling with this activity and plan to check in with them during the next block of independent work time.</li> <li>• After several minutes, ask students to turn and talk with each other about their story maps. Circulate as they share, perhaps tuning into discussions where students disagreed with each other so that you can lift up those disagreements for the whole class to grapple with. Make note of common disagreements or misconceptions.</li> <li>• Draw students’ attention back together and address any common disagreements or misconceptions as a class.</li> <li>• Briefly display the Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment rubric once again. Draw students’ attention back to the Cohesion, Organization, and Style rows and ask a student to read the first 4 box aloud: * “The narrative pace flows smoothly, naturally, and logically from an exposition through several related events.”</li> <li>• Have students turn and talk about the score they would give the model narrative in this category.</li> <li>• After a moment, cold call a pair to share their thinking with the whole group. Listen for them to say that the model narrative should receive a score of 4 in this category, since it contains a clear exposition (beginning) and several related events.</li> <li>• Repeat this process with the third row within Cohesion, Organization, and Style: “The narrative’s compelling conclusion follows logically from and insightfully reflects on earlier events in the narrative.”</li> <li>• As you did earlier in the lesson, use the document camera to display a copy of the model narrative. Annotate the model with students’ ideas using language from the rubric as they do the same on their own copies. (For example, you might underline or circle the first three paragraphs of the model narrative and write, “Clear exposition.”)</li> </ul>	



Narrative Writing:  
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Work Time (continued)	Meeting Students' Needs
<p><b>B. Becoming Visible Again: Mapping My Narrative (10 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell students that now that they have researched Miné Okubo's life, chosen a moment to write about, and practiced using the story map with a model narrative, it is time for them to plan the major events in the plot of their own narrative. Explain that this part of the narrative will relate to the thematic concept of becoming visible again.</li> <li>• Tell students to take out their <b>Gathering Textual Evidence: Becoming Visible Again after Internment note-catcher</b> (from Lesson 3) as you distribute a second copy of the Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again story map to each of them. Tell students that they have the rest of today's class, as well as tonight for homework, to plan their narrative by using what they have learned about Miné's life to craft the plot on the story map. Remind them that the story map should contain only the basic events in the story; it is like an outline for their story and does not need to include creative details or narrative techniques. Students will build in those parts of their stories during Lesson 5.</li> <li>• Put a "Help List" on the board so students can sign up when they have questions. Circulate while they work, addressing questions and ensuring that their work meets the criteria of the task. Remind students that, just as in the model, a lot of the details in their narratives will come from their own imaginations. This is good, as long as the basic facts of the story are based on textual evidence and true events.</li> </ul>	
Closing and Assessment	Meeting Students' Needs
<p><b>A. Previewing Homework (1 minute)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell students that for homework, they should finish their story maps. Emphasize that they will need a strong draft of their map (not their actual story) for Lesson 5, since they will participate in a peer critique to strengthen their narratives before they start to write.</li> </ul>	
Homework	Meeting Students' Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish mapping out your narrative on the Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment story map. Be prepared to share your story map and explain why you included these details during a peer critique in the next lesson.</li> </ul>	





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## Supporting Materials



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**Narrative Writing:**  
Becoming Visible Again after Internment Model

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**Name:**

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**Date:**

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I hear the heavy metal gate of the internment camp slam shut behind me, the guard’s voice echoing in my ears: “Number 13660: discharged.” My identity is a number. My name has been erased. I am invisible. And the Utah desert lies before me, whole and open and terrifying.

I have lived behind the barbed-wire fence of an internment camp for the last two years. My brother, Toku, and I were forced to relocate after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. Suddenly, we were the enemy, even though we were both born and raised in California. I don’t even speak Japanese, but the government was convinced that I was a threat because of my jet-black hair, my Japanese ancestors, my hard-to-pronounce name.

Now, I have been allowed to escape. I am leaving Toku behind to move to New York City. I have been hired as a magazine artist. My drawings of life inside the camp are carefully rolled up inside my bag.

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The day before I am scheduled to leave for New York, I travel to Oakland, California. Before I was relocated (that’s what they call it, “relocated,” although it felt more like being captured and imprisoned), I was hired to create murals for this city. I stalk down one street, peer down another, trying to remember the exact location of one of my murals. I turn a corner and there it is—my art, splashed carelessly across the wall. I was a different person when I made this. I existed. People could see me. Now I am a shadow.

I notice a piece of paint coming loose from the bricks. I pinch it between my fingers and pull. It flakes off and flutters to the ground. The spot of naked brick left behind makes my throat sore and my eyes water.

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Every night, I dream that this was all a big mistake. In my dreams, the guards mixed me up with someone else. They come for me here in New York. I dream that the guards climb up the metal fire escape, squeeze through the window, and drag me from my bed. They toss me into a bag and fling me out the window to the street below. I imagine myself screaming, but no one can hear me over the roar of the traffic. In my dreams, everyone on the street is laughing at something I can’t see.

Narrative Writing:  
Becoming Visible Again after Internment Model

Every morning, I wake terrified, as if I've actually been captured. Then I remember that the guards in the camp never touched me. They treated me like I didn't exist. But this doesn't make sleeping any easier.

Yesterday, I walked to the magazine office for the first time, my drawings carefully pressed into a secondhand briefcase they gave me. As I walked, I passed a newsstand filled with magazines and newspapers. I scanned the headlines and saw one that said, "JAP SPY CAPTURED IN NEW YORK." My heart stopped, trying to stay quiet. I felt like I was watching myself from far, far away. I looked at my feet to make sure they were still on the ground.

A white woman with her baby bumped into my shoulder. I looked up and met her angry, accusatory eyes. "Excuse me," I whispered.

"You people should be ashamed of yourselves," she sneered. I looked around and realized that her face was mirrored all around me—everywhere I looked, there was another pair of angry eyes, another parent gripping a child's hand more tightly. I wondered again if the guards were coming for me. I realized what those people saw when they looked at me. A "Jap." They didn't see my face. They saw a head of jet-black hair. An enemy. I pulled my jacket more tightly around me and rushed away from the newsstand and the angry woman, her voice playing over and over in my head: *ashamed*.

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I have been in New York for almost three months when it happens. I walk past that same newsstand where I first realized how invisible I was. My eyes scan watchfully over the colorful magazine covers and screaming black-and-white newspaper headlines, dreading their accusations.

Then, one magazine's cover story jumps out at me: "INSIDE THE CAMPS." My drawings! I ignore the stares of people around me and grab the magazine off the stand. I flip through it, seeing my own pictures on the pages inside.

I look up to see the man who owns the newsstand burning holes in my face with his angry eyes. I don't blink. I stare back at him. Then I slap my money down on the counter. "These are my drawings," I say to him. "This is MY story."

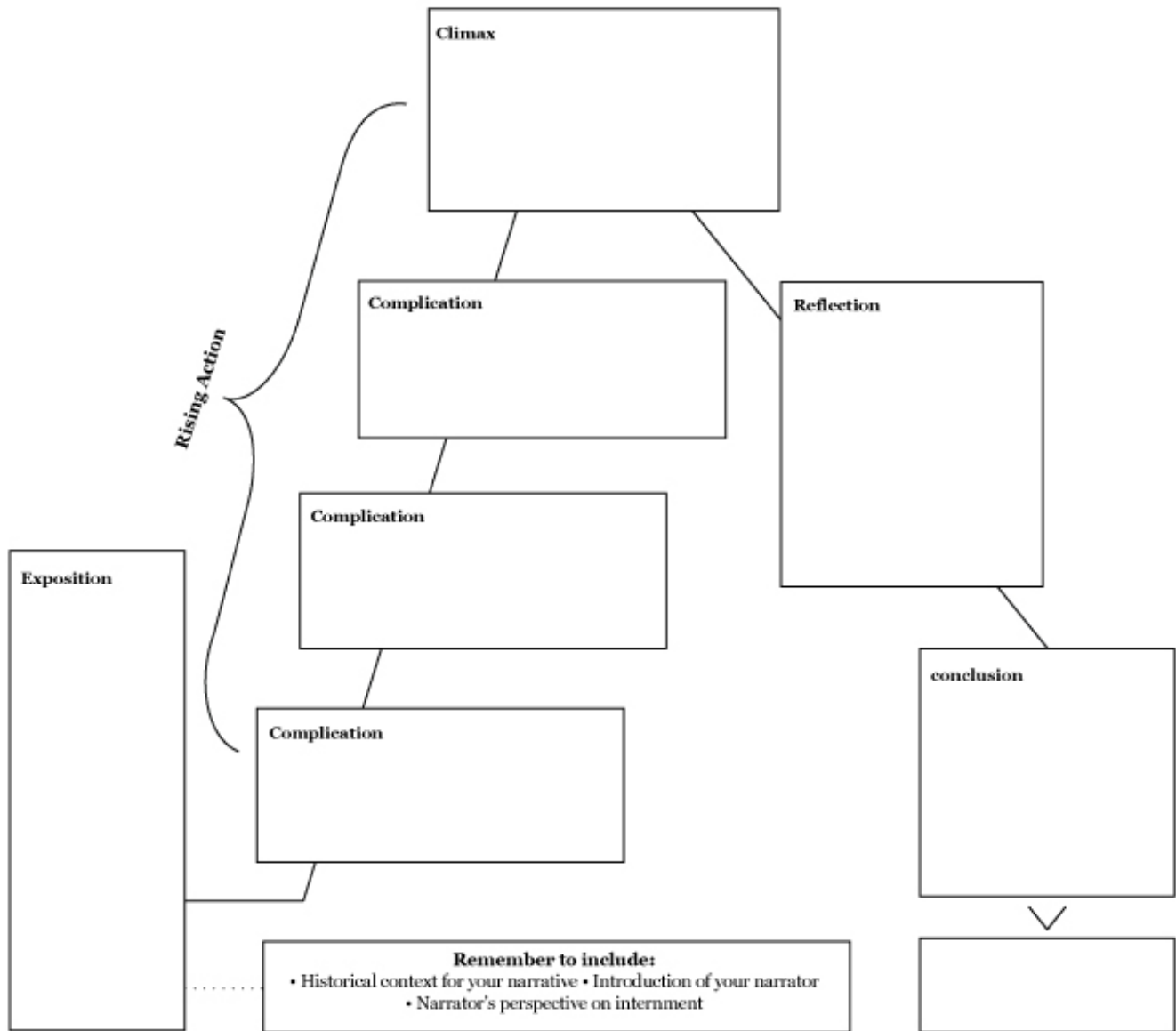
The imaginary guards who have stalked me through New York melt away. Relief washes over me. Despite the headlines, despite the stares, despite everything, I am an American citizen. I am no longer just Citizen 13660. I am Miné. I am visible again.

Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment

Story Map

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Narrative Writing: Becoming Visible Again after Internment  
Story Map (For Teacher Reference)

