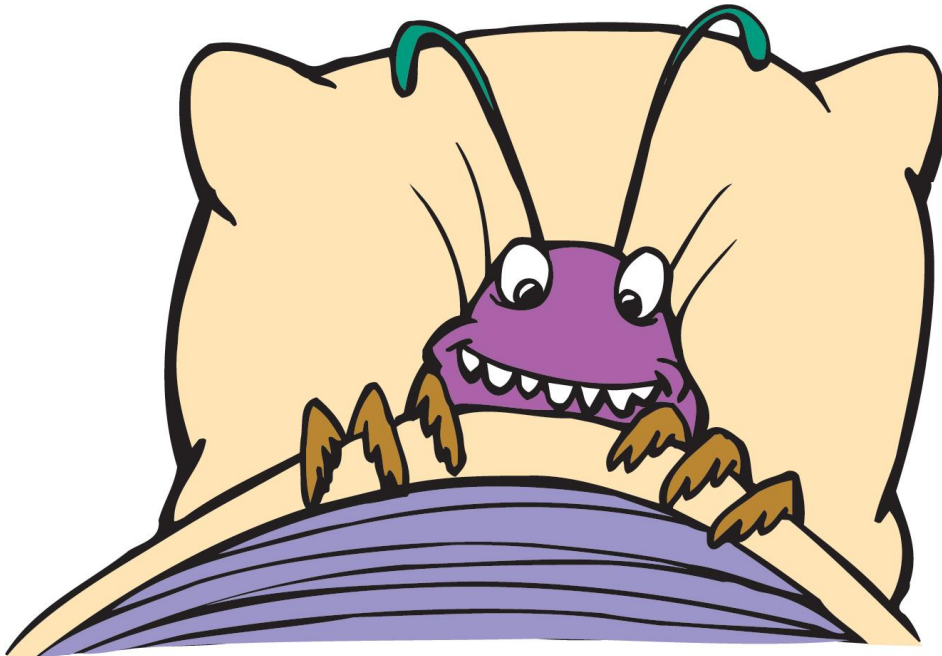


EESL CYCLE 2
(Information-Based Narrative on Bedbugs)

Student Booklet



Name: _____

Group: _____

Instructions

Your task consists in writing an **information-based narrative** from the point of view of a bedbug. Make that you know how to write an information-based narrative from the perspective of a “non-human.”

Simply put, an information-based narrative is a story, in which real and authentic information about the narrator is present.

In order to become familiar with this literary genre and in the information elements required for this literary genre, **read** the two examples. Pay attention to the **point of view** (the narrator).

1. A Day in the Life of a Barbie Doll
2. A Day in the Life of an Elephant Seal Scientist

As you read these two texts, underline or highlight the information you learn about a Barbie Doll and an Elephant Seal Scientist.

Doing so, you will identify the information the author selected from informative texts which he or she included in the narrative.

Components and/or features of a narrative text:

- Theme: the main idea of a literary work usually expressed as a generalization
- Setting: The time and place in which a work of literature happens.
- Characters: people (or actors) in the story.
- Point of view: The story teller from whose point of view the story is being told, the narrator.
- Characterization: The description of the personalities of the characters in the story and the way in which an author reveals their personalities.
- Plot: The sequence or order of events in a story. The plot includes:
 - Exposition statement (the part of the plot that tells how the story begins.)
 - Rising Action (The action in the story leading up to the climax.),
 - Conflict (struggles or problems between opposing forces.),
 - Climax (the point of crisis in the plot. It may be the reader’s point of highest interest.),
 - Falling action (the action in the story after the climax is revealed.),
 - Resolution (the part of the plot that reveals the final outcome.)

EXAMPLE OF AN INFORMATION-BASED NARRATIVE

A Day in the Life of a Barbie Doll – Part I

I wake to the thundering roar of children bounding down the stairs. I've been in solitary confinement for the past 24 hours—but it feels like days without light. I had learned to live with the tight plastic ties that strap me to the back of my box, but this complete blackout is something new and terrifying.

Yesterday, a middle-aged woman with dark hair and glasses picked me out of a row of Barbie doll look-alikes. She looked at me quizzically through the plastic window on the front of my box.

"A Pink Label Barbie doll. Yes, you'll do just fine," she said. "Gracie is only seven; she doesn't need a collectible doll. Oh, she's going to love you!"

And without another word, she dropped me into the store trolley and wheeled me to the checkout counter. Five minutes later I found myself dumped upside-down in a shopping bag in the back of this lady's car.

I'm guessing that this Gracie is her daughter. I just hope that she's one of those nice kids—the kind that treats their dolls with the respect and reverence they deserve, the kind that invites them to tea parties and brushes their hair and gives them loads of pretty dresses to wear and lets them sleep on the soft pillows when the bed is made.

I hope she's not one of those nasty little kids that mess up their dolls' hair in a million knots and let their snotty-nosed little brothers or sisters rip their heads off and flush them down the toilet! Oh—I've heard some horror stories in my time at the store.

I can hear the children yelling and laughing and suddenly the paper that covered my box is ripped off by a little girl with such force that my box tumbles to the floor. The bright lights are blinding and I try to move my arms to shield my eyes, but the straps are so tight, I can't move. I wonder if this torture is ever going to end.

Then I see this kid coming at me with a pair of scissors.

"Be careful Gracie darling," cautions the woman with dark hair. "You don't want to chop off an arm before you even get her out of the box, do you?"

Yeah—don't chop off my arm, Gracie! Just remember I have 4 million+ likes on Facebook and 100,000+ followers on Twitter—that's more fans than any other doll out there! I also have my own blog! So just leave me in one piece, okay?

My box is turned upside down and suddenly I find myself face down on the floor and a few seconds later I am free.

Oh, the feeling of freedom—of not being bound in a box! Finally, after all this time, the shackles are off! Gracie moves my arms and legs and turns my head. Ouch! I'm stiff, and my joints ache. I haven't felt this much pain since plastic surgery reshaped my face and body—how else do you think I look this good—I mean I've been around since 1959! And let's not forget, people—I am plastic!

“Barbie!” squeals Gracie excitedly.

My real name is actually Barbara Millicent Roberts, but ever since Willows High School, (that’s where I went to school in Wisconsin), pretty much everyone just calls me Barbie.

Gracie is clearly ecstatic in my presence—which is hardly surprising; I mean I am a famous movie star and pop icon—and not only that—I’ve had over 130 amazing careers, including one as an astronaut where I went to the moon—4 years before Neil Armstrong! It’s no wonder I’m the most popular, fashionable, beautiful choice of doll worldwide for girls ages 3 to 6, who own on average 12 others just like me!

Gracie has a kind face and loving eyes and for a moment, I think I may have hit the jackpot! But my sense of euphoria quickly turns to fear as George, Gracie’s 4-year-old brother, rips me from her hands and bolts upstairs to his room, locking the door behind him.

I can hear Gracie screaming and banging on the door in between bursts of sobs.

“Open the door, George,” comes the stern, don’t-mess-with-me voice of his mother. “Or your yellow tractor gets it!”

There is a moment of silence and then George unlocks the door and hands me back to Gracie, who runs off still sobbing to her room—my new home.

It was a beautiful room—pale pink walls and fuchsia curtains. And in the corner, the most beautiful dollhouse you ever saw! The entire house is decorated in my signature color—Barbie Pink (PMS - 219). I know—everyone laughs at the color code. If only Ken were here to see this with me. We officially got back together on Valentine’s Day 2011, but I haven’t seen him since I left the store.

Gracie places me carefully on a chair in the living room.

“Don’t worry, Barbie,” she says, still fighting back the tears. “I promise to look after you and love you forever.”

We spend the rest of the day drinking tea and playing dress-up, and when it begins to get dark, Gracie tucks me into the bright pink Barbie bed in the dollhouse, kisses me goodnight and leaves to brush her teeth.

In all, it has been a wonderful but exhausting day. I close my eyes, stretch my arms and legs and rub my wrists and ankles where the straps used to be. I am just about to close my eyes, when I notice George’s stocky little silhouette in the doorway. . . .

To be continued.

EXAMPLE OF AN INFORMATION-BASED NARRATIVE

A Day in the Life of an Elephant Seal Scientist

I'm what I guess can be called a "seal scientist." Not by choice. I was ambushed.

About a month ago, I was on the beach for our biannual "beach party," during which we moult, mate, give birth to our young, or simply relax. I was taking it easy, basking in the sun, when I felt a sharp pain in my side. Before I had time to react, I became really sleepy.

Next thing I knew, I started to come to, feeling rather woozy. A few humans were crouched beside me, staring at me and talking. It took me a while to get my bearings, but I could hear bits and pieces of their conversation.

"The computerized tag is activated. We'll be able to pick up the signal and follow it."

"Great. We'll be able to collect the data it sends to our receiver."

"I can't wait. These seals can go so much deeper than we can. Who knows what we'll learn."

At the time, this conversation made no sense to me. It's only later in the day that I put it all together. When the humans left and I finally came out of my haze, I turned to find Martie, a fellow elephant seal.

I froze.

Click. All the pieces fell into place.

He looked so ridiculous. Had the situation not been this serious, I would have laughed my head off. On top of his head sat this weird gizmo, and I knew right then that whatever was on his head was also on mine. And I understood what the humans were talking about. I knew what this was all about. This was a computerized tag, and we were going to be used to gather data. The thing on my head will send the humans data on all kinds of things, such as water temperature and salinity.

I've seen those devices on other species before: sea lions, humpback whales, blue whales, turtles, and great white sharks. Let me tell you, sharks don't look as fierce with silly looking devices on their heads. I laughed so hard when I first saw them! They were trying to look menacing, and I kept laughing.

I don't laugh anymore.

So here I am, with my friends, foraging for food in the Pacific Ocean, with a flashing, red tiara on my head! This morning, we ran across another group of elephant seals. Those of us with the fancy new head gear sure got a ribbing. And now I know exactly how those sharks felt. Martie just looks depressed and angry.

I'm not as upset as Martie. I've chosen to keep a positive attitude. If you can't beat them, join them, right? I mean, the tag doesn't hurt at all, and it doesn't hinder any of my activities. So if it helps the humans, why not? After all, they're an inferior mammal species, only able to swim in shallow waters and having to come up for air every minute or so. (It's so funny to see them flailing their arms above water!) We, on the other hand, can dive as deep as two kilometers, travel at 7 km/h and hold our breath for almost two hours. We see underwater wonders they'll never get a glimpse of. I just wish they had asked nicely.



This is a picture of Martie. Doesn't he look attractive with his tag?

Photo: flicker/Census of Marine Life E&O/Creative Commons License

Article 1

Creepy Critters

Bedbugs are on the rise in the United States

Words to Know

Resurgence: (rih-suhr-jents)

Noun. A return to being large in number or importance.

“Don’t let the bedbugs bite” is sometimes heard as kids are tucked into bed. These days, that line may be more than a playful expression

The U.S. is experiencing the biggest outbreak of bedbugs since World War II. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is trying to figure out how to combat this problem. “(Bedbugs are) the most difficult, challenging pest problem of our generation,” insect expert Mike Potter says.

Bedbugs do not spread disease, but their bites can leave red, itchy welts on the skin. They most often live in beds, but can also be found in sofas and other furniture, behind wallpaper, and in crevices. The tiny insects typically come out at night to feed on the blood of humans while they sleep.

The *resurgence* of bedbugs is due in part to the world wide use of less-powerful bug killers since the 1960s, when the potent insecticide DDT was banned. In addition, travel is more common today, and travelers may come in contact with the bugs in hotels and motels, and on cruise ships. They can stow away in a person’s luggage or clothing and infest person’s home when he or she returns to it.

Here are two articles for you to read. Select information you would like to include in your **information-based narrative**.



NASTY PEST The bedbug is more common than most people realize.

Bedbugs, which can live for up to a year without eating, are hard to combat. Luckily, experts say there are things you can do to stop them:

- Keep your room tidy. Having belongings strewn about gives bedbugs more places to hide.
- When you travel, have an adult check hotel rooms for the bugs. Change rooms if you see signs of them.
- Ask an adult to call in pest professionals if you think your home is infested. They have the right tools to beat the bugs.

Source: “Creepy Critters,” Scholastic News, May 11 and 18, 2009, p. 3

BITTING BACK

Experts use creative weapons to battle a countrywide surge in bedbugs

Jack sniffs his way through a client's bedroom. The Jack Russell terrier-mix paws a spot on the bed to alert his handler he has detected the target. Sure enough, hidden in a mattress seam rests a tiny, flattened brown insect – a bedbug.

Bedbugs (*Cimex lectularius*) were common in the United States until toxic pesticides nearly wiped them out 50 years ago. Now the insects are back in full force, infesting houses, apartments, dorms, and hotels across the country. The bugs lay low during the day and come out at night to feed on the blood of sleeping humans. Many victims develop itchy red welts, while others show no symptoms. Detection like Jack are only one of the weapons experts are using to bite back at bedbugs.

“While it would take two people a good hour to dismantle the room and look, it takes the dog two minutes to move through the room and let you know if there are any bugs there.”

- Gretta MacIntyre, Jack's handler

UNDER THE RADAR

One reason for the bloodsucker's comeback is increased human travel to and from countries where bedbugs were never eradicated. “This is a bug that's an amazing hitchhiker,” says Michael Potter, an entomologist who studies insects at the University of Kentucky. Once the bedbugs crawl onto suitcases, unsuspecting travelers carry them home or to the other hotels. The insects also are on the rise because many older

pesticides found to be harmful for humans and the environment have been replaced with ones not as effective against the bugs.

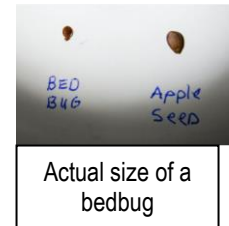
TRICKY INSECT

The good news: Bedbugs aren't known to spread disease. The bad news: They use tricks that make getting rid of them a

challenge. For instance, they're good at retaining moisture, so they can live for more than a year without feeding. This means you can't starve them out by temporarily vacating a room or apartment. “They'll just wait you out. Or they'll move to an adjoining unit,” says Potter.

Exterminators can target bedbugs, but first they have to find them. The *parasites* (organisms that depend on another organism to exist) can spread from a bed with other furniture, behind the edges of carpets, or even inside computers. “Just about anywhere you can imagine, a bedbug can crawl into,” says Potter.

People must take apart furniture and pull up carpeting to locate the bugs. But bedbug detection dogs have a trick of their own: their super-sensitive noses. “While it would take two people a good hour to dismantle the room and look, it takes the dog two minutes to move through the room and let you know if there are any bugs there,” says Gretta MacIntyre, Jack's handler and the owner of Sleep Tight Canine Bed Bug Detection Service. Jack Can sweep through roughly a hundred hotel rooms a day.



ON THE OFFENSIVE

Once bedbugs are detected, the most common weapon exterminators use is an effective pesticide – although some bedbugs are becoming resistant (immune) to today’s chemicals. Another strategy is heating affected rooms to temperatures greater than 49C (120 Fahrenheit) or freezing the bugs with carbon dioxide spray. “An insect is cold blooded; it can’t regulate its internal body temperature like we can,” says Potter. Extreme heat or cold kills the parasites.

Potter points out that there’s no need to go buggy, but it’s good to be aware of the current bedbug invasion. In hotels or at camp, examine mattress seams for these insects or the droppings they leave behind, which look like small black spots. If you suspect bedbugs, ask for another room. This will help keep the bedbugs from biting – so you can sleep tight.

Source: Jacqueline Adams, “Biting Back,” *Science World*, Vol. 66, No.1, September 7, 2009, pp. 8-9.



Bedbugs bite in a pattern of three, often called “breakfast, lunch and dinner.”

Before you start writing your information-based narrative, answer the following questions.

_____/20

Use the information from both articles to answer the following questions.

1. How is the bedbug problem described in the first article? _____

2. What are the probable causes of the resurgence of bedbugs? _____

3. Name 4 places where bedbugs can be found in a house. _____

4. What is the life expectancy of a bedbug? _____
5. What can be used to detect bedbugs? _____
6. What are possible reactions to a bedbug bite? _____

7. How do bedbugs travel from place to place? Explain. _____

8. What type of tools do we have to fight against bedbugs? _____

9. What advice could be given to people to help stop the infestation? _____

10. When do bedbugs mostly go into action? _____

Use this section to write your draft. Hand in your final copy on a different sheet of paper.

Write an information-based narrative entitled “A ~~Day~~ Night in the Life of a Bedbug,” i.e. Written from the perspective of a bedbug. Inform students of the following requirements:

- a. Purpose: Inform the public about bedbugs through a narrative
- b. Target audience: General English-speaking audience in the province of Québec
- c. Number of words: Not specified. What matters is to write a narrative that is informative and complete.

Remember that the narrative must be informative, not only entertaining, as the purpose is to inform the public about bedbugs.

Task specific: Create an information-based narrative

| | Observables | A 20 | B 18-16 | C 14-12 | D 10-6 | E 6-0 |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Use of knowledge from texts in a reinvestment task | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Selection of information/ideas from texts relevant to the task. ➤ Coherence of organization of selected information/ideas. ➤ Combination of information/ideas and language selected in texts with own ideas and personal language. ➤ Use of text components/text features. ➤ Accurate use of information drawn from texts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects all the relevant information/ideas. • Organizes the ideas and information skillfully and coherently. • Skillfully combines information/ideas and language selected in texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. • Skillfully uses all the text features/components to create an information-based narrative. • Use of the information is accurate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects most of the relevant information/ideas. • Organizes the ideas and information coherently. • Combines information/ideas and language selected in the texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. • Adequately uses f the text features/components to create an information-based narrative. • Use of the information is accurate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects some relevant information/ideas. • The organization lacks cohesion in areas of the text. • Sometimes .combines information/ideas and language selected from the texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. Acceptable use of the text features/components to create an information-based narrative. • Some of the information is inaccurate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects very few relevant information/ideas. • The organization lacks cohesion throughout the text. • .Rarely combines information/ideas and language selected in the texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. • Inadequate use of the features/components of an information-based narrative which generates a lack in content. • Information if any is inaccurate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not choose relevant information/ideas to answer the questions. • The organization is confusing to the reader. • Delivers a product which does not correspond to the task |

Com

ponents and/or features of a narrative text:

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- Setting: The time and place in which a work of literature happens.
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 - Resolution (the part of the plot that reveals the final outcome.)