

# AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITING

## 1. What is our Learning Goal?:

## 2. What is Autobiographical Writing?

- Auto:
- Bio:
- Graph:

## 3. How can you tell that the excerpt below is an example of Autobiographical Writing?

"We didn't always live on Mango Street. Before that we lived on Loomis on the third floor, and before that we lived on Keeler. Before Keeler it was Paulina, and before that I can't remember."

## 4. What should Autobiographical Writing include:

- A. Descriptions using \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_:
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_:
- Interior:
  - Monologue:

## 5. What descriptions in the excerpt below are sensory details?

"My Papa's hair is like a broom, all up in the air. And me, my hair is lazy. It never obeys barrettes or bands."

## 6. Do the excerpts below contain interior monologue?

"I knew then I had to have a house. A real house. One I could point to. But this isn't it. The house on Mango Street isn't it."

"She says, I am the great great grand cousin of the queen of France."

# APPLICATION

I. Read each excerpt from The House On Mango Street. Then write an "A" on the line if it is an example of Autobiographical Writing and "NA" if it is not an example of Autobiographical Writing. Highlight proof within the passage to corroborate your answer

1. "Sally is the girl with eyes like Egypt and nylons the color of smoke. The boys at school think she's beautiful because her hair is shiny black like raven feathers and when she laughs, she flicks her hair back like a satin shawl over her shoulders."

3. "There was a family. All were little. Their arms were little, and their hands were little, and their height was not tall, and their feet very small."

2. "I don't remember when I first noticed him looking at me - Sire. But I knew he was looking. Every time. All the time I walked past his house."

II. Read each autobiographical excerpt from The House On Mango Street. Then highlight the detailed descriptions in each excerpt. Choose one of the five senses that the passage appeals to and put its picture on the line provided.

1. "His feet were fat and doughy like thick tamales..."

3. "But me and Nenny, we are more alike than you would know. Our laughter for example. Not the shy ice cream bells' giggle of Rachel and Lucy's family, but all of the sudden and surprised like a pile of dishes breaking."

2. "...My mother's hair...sweet to put your nose into when she is holding you, holding you and you feel safe, is the warm smell of bread before you bake it..."

4. "...I cried and ate my sandwich, the bread already greasy and the rice cold."

III. Read each excerpt from The House On Mango Street. If the excerpt includes Interior Monologue, write "Yes" on the line. If the excerpt does not include Interior Monologue, write "No" on the line. Underneath each excerpt explain why it is or is not an example of Interior Monologue.

1. "I want to be all new and shiny. I want to sit out bad at night, a boy around my neck and the wind under my skirt. Not this way, every evening talking to trees, leaning out my window, imagining what I can't see."

