



Give it a Listen: Season 3, Episode 24: **The Night I Started Sharing a Room With My Sister / Dogs With a Secret**

What's this activity about? Writing about a "small moment" from your life, and hooking the reader in so that they want to read more.

What stuff do I need to do it? This sheet, Creator Club notebook or paper, pen or pencil, your memory!

Did you know not all stories have to be totally made up? Authors can write true stories about their own lives, and these stories are called **personal narratives**. Writers can take small moments from their real memories and expand on them with lots of juicy details and stylish language, so that they are super fun and interesting to read. And YOU can too! All you have to do is think of a memory, and describe what happened through your eyes. As long as it is important to you, it will be a great story!

When you're writing about your OWN life and you REALLY want other people to read it, you can use a **hook** right at the beginning to get your reader's attention, so they will want to keep reading. In the story, "The Night I Started Sharing a Room With My Sister," by a kid named Amelia from Texas, the author tells a story about a small moment in her life, and the way she used sound effects hooked us in right away:

It was a normal winter day, my mom had a crazy idea (in my opinion). It was... wait drumroll please. Dun dun dun okay now! It was to share a room (with my sister!)

WOWWW! All those **sound effects** made us want to read more! If you write your own small moment story, you can use a **hook** like that at the beginning too! Here are a few kinds you could use in your own story:

Sound Effect - Use a sound word and then explain what made that sound:

Yeeeahhhwwwwnn, I yawned as I prepared to snuggle into my sleeping bag for my first sleepover...

Setting - Describe where your story takes place in detail:

A warm summer breeze blew through the leaves of my favorite backyard tree as I prepared to climb...

Dialogue - Start with something someone in the story says:

"The car is all packed. Time to get a move on!" Mom called. We were going to Big Bend National Park!

Action - Describe what you were doing at the beginning of the story:

I threw on my lucky football jersey and skipped into the kitchen where Dad was making my birthday cake...

Grownups, share some personal narratives using catchy hooks with us!
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