

Lesson 65: Object Study & Description — My Penknife**PLL PART TWO****Object Study • Technical Description**

"What two parts has it? Of what is the handle made? Of what color is it? Is the blade bright and sharp? Was it a present? From whom? What can you do with it?"

Historical Context: A penknife was a prized student tool used to trim quill pens, sharpen pencils, and whittle cedar wood.

1 ANATOMY & PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Examine the folding penknife and answer each question in complete descriptive sentences:

- 1. Two Main Parts:** The penknife has two principal parts: the _____ and the _____.
- 2. Handle Material:** The handle is made of sturdy _____.
- 3. Handle Color:** The color of the handle is _____.
- 4. Blade Condition:** The steel blade is _____.

2 PROVENANCE, USES & SAFETY RULES

Describe where the penknife came from, how it is used, and how to handle it safely:

- 1. Was It a Present?** _____
- 2. Three Useful Tasks:** Name three things you can do with a sharp penknife:
I can use it to _____
- 3. Golden Safety Rule:** When cutting with a knife, always carve _____ yourself.

3 DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH • "MY PENKNIFE"

Write a complete, vivid 3-to-4 sentence paragraph describing your pocket penknife:

Lesson 65 Teacher Key: Object Description & Technical Accuracy

ANSWER KEY & RUBRIC

Pedagogical Framework • Object Lessons (Serl & Pestalozzi)

Object Study Focus: Guiding students to examine an everyday physical artifact systematically: analyzing its component anatomy, material constituents, tactile/visual properties, practical utility, and safety responsibility.

1 SECTION 1: ANATOMY & MATERIAL SOLUTIONS

- 1. **Two Principal Parts:** The **handle** and the **blade** (also accept hinge, spring, bolster).
- 2. **Handle Materials:** Polished bone, carved horn, hardwood (cherry, walnut, oak), mother-of-pearl, or brass.
- 3. **Handle Color:** Dark brown, chestnut, ebony black, amber, or ivory white.
- 4. **Blade Condition:** The steel blade is **bright, polished, and sharp**.

2 SECTION 2: PROVENANCE, USES & SAFETY SOLUTIONS

- 1. **Gift Statement:** "It was a gift from my father on my eighth birthday." (or grandfather / uncle).
- 2. **Useful Tasks:** Sharpen cedar pencils, mend quill pens, trim paper edges, cut cord or twine, whittle soft wood.
- 3. **Golden Safety Rule:** Always cut **away from** yourself, never run with an open blade, and fold the knife securely when finished.

3 SECTION 3: MODEL DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

Exemplary Student Model Paragraph:
"My pocket penknife is a useful tool with two main parts: a smooth chestnut wood handle and a folding steel blade. The blade is kept bright, clean, and very sharp. It was a birthday present from my grandfather. With it, I can sharpen my school pencils into fine points and cut thick string when working in the garden."

4 DIAGNOSTIC SCORING RUBRIC (4 PERFORMANCE LEVELS)

Evaluation Domain	4 • Exemplary	3 • Proficient	2 • Developing / Emerging
Object Anatomy & Materials	Identifies handle and blade precisely; uses rich sensory adjectives for material, color, and finish.	Identifies parts and materials accurately with standard descriptive terms.	Vague description; omits key component parts.
Utility & Safety Awareness	Articulates multiple practical uses and emphasizes the cardinal safety rule (cutting away from self).	Names practical uses and identifies basic safety requirement.	Fails to explain uses or neglects safety rule entirely.
Paragraph Synthesis	Composes a tight, fluent descriptive paragraph combining physical attributes and practical value.	Writes a coherent paragraph with clear sequential descriptions.	Lists disconnected sentences without paragraph unity.
Grammar & Mechanics	Flawless sentence boundaries, correct adjective placement, capital letters, and end periods.	Complete sentences with minor capitalization or punctuation slip.	Frequent fragments or run-on sentences.