

LESSON 56: STORY WRITING — MAY AND HER BIRD**I NARRATIVE COMPOSITION • RETELLING A COMPLETE STORY**

• **Story Elements:** Introduce May and her canary Dick, tell who gave it to her, how it sings, and how May protects it from the hungry cat.

• **Paragraph Writing:** Indent your opening sentence, link your thoughts with connecting words (and, but, because), and check your punctuation.

**◆ TEXTBOOK STORY MODEL**

"May has a pet canary. It was a present from her mother. May calls her bird Dick. It will sit on her hand and sing. The old cat thinks he would like to eat Dick. Will May let the cat get the bird?"

• WRITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS AND TELL THE STORY:

1. Who gave the canary to May, and what is the bird's name?

2. What does the canary do when it sits on May's hand?

3. What does the old cat outside want to do?

4. Story Title: May and Her Pet Canary

SELF CHECK Every response is a full statement • Capital letter at start • Period (.) at end.

LESSON 56: STORY WRITING — MAY AND HER BIRD — ANSWER KEY **CLASSICAL PEDAGOGY & INQUIRY FOCUS**

Classic Pedagogical Focus: Transition from guided picture inquiry (Lesson 55) to independent paragraph composition (Lesson 56). The student synthesizes the provided textbook narrative model into a connected four- to five-sentence story. Evaluate narrative flow, character names, conflict resolution, and mechanical accuracy.

Socratic Classroom Sequence: Discuss the picture with pupils before they write. Ask them to imagine the canary's song and describe why May loves her bird. Have them explain why the cat must not be allowed inside.

• EXEMPLARY ANSWERS & SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION MODELS**• Question 1: Gift and name**

Model Answer: May's mother gave her the canary, and May calls her bird Dick.

Teaching Guidance: Compound statement with proper nouns 'May' and 'Dick'.

• Question 2: What the bird does

Model Answer: The little bird sits gently on May's hand and sings sweetly.

Teaching Guidance: Action verbs: sits and sings.

• Question 3: The cat's intent

Model Answer: The old cat watching outside would like to catch and eat Dick.

Teaching Guidance: Threat identification.

• Question 4: Model Narrative Composition

Model Answer: May has a pet canary named Dick, which was a present from her mother. The sweet bird will sit upon her hand and sing cheerful songs. Outside the window, an old cat watches and wants to catch Dick. But May is very careful and puts her pet safely back inside his cage.

Teaching Guidance: Exemplary continuous narrative showing setting, action, conflict, and safe resolution.

Common Errors to Address: Check that proper nouns (May, Dick, Pussy) are capitalized. Ensure that stories do not become run-on sentences joined by endless 'and's'.