

Autobiographical Comic Strips

(in 4 EASY steps)

Step #1: What's Your Story?

THE first thing you need to figure out is what you want to make your comic about. To help you think of some stories to chose from, I MADE UP TWO WRITING EXERCISES for you to do. You're answers don't HAVE TO BE Long. Write JUST enough To SPARK THE memory and WHAT the ending might BE.



PURPOSE OF THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES

The purpose of the following two exercises is to help you to recall some rich and meaningful stories in your life out of which to make a comic strip. The questions are designed to spark memories that will be interesting for you to draw and share; It is important to stimulate your mind by writing down numerous story ideas. In much the same way that an athlete needs to stretch and warm up before a game, we need to warm up before making art. In addition, after completing these exercises, we will have a variety of stories to chose from for our Autobiographical Comic Strip, as well as plenty for the future! So get your favorite pen out & here we GO!!!



HEY Wait! I forgot to tell you!!!
YOU CAN SKIP QUESTIONS that
you don't want to answer, you CAN
WORK ON QUESTIONS IN ANY ORDER,

You can WRITE MORE THAN ONE
ANSWER TO A QUESTION

QUESTIONNAIRE #1 By Heather McAdams
For Personal Narrative Comic Strip

1. Tell about a person who has had an impact on you.
A teacher, neighbor, relative, street person, etc.???
Describe them or tell a particular incident that involves
them. (Or do both.)

2. Did you ever get in trouble? In school? With your
parents? With the police? What happened?

3. Can you remember any stories from your childhood that
involved animals? How about insect, any good insect stories?

4. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would
it be? Tell the history of this discontent. When did it all
start? How does it affect your life today?

5. What were you scared of as a kid? (Nightmares? A relative? etc.) What happened that made you so afraid?

6. Did you ever break any bones or hurt yourself? Did you ever hurt anyone else? Get in a fight? What happened and why?

7. What is your most embarrassing moment?

8. Is there a special place that stands out in your mind as being especially nostalgic? It could be peaceful and spiritual or it could be the closet that you were locked into when you were punished. Describe why this place/space is so memorable. It might be your Grandmother's attic, a field, a room, a funeral home, etc.

9. Any good Halloween, Birthday or holiday stories that come to mind?

QUESTIONNAIRE #2 By Heather McAdams
For Personal Narrative Comic Strip

Divide your life into TEN key events that helped shape who you are today from earliest to latest. (If you don't feel comfortable sharing an incident on this worksheet, just put a star in that space and leave it blank.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

WHEN YOU ARE DONE

Read over your answers. Then ask yourself

Which one interests you the most to tell?

Which one would be the most exciting to draw pictures of?

Which one, if you were to get up in front of the class and tell, would you enjoy sharing?

Which one has a funny ending?

Which one jumps off the page as the one you secretly want to share?

DECIDE ON YOUR STORY FOR THE NEXT CLASS!!



Congratulations! You have just completed Step ONE! Here are a few helpful HINTS to think about until the next CLASS.

1. Your stories ARE important! I think they ARE special enough to go out and BUY A SPECIAL BOOK TO PUT THEM IN.



2. There is NO SUBJECT TOO SMALL!



I'll SAW MY WAY out.

3. Your story CAN be of A SERIOUS NATURE.



4. Remember, ONLY you ARE AN EXPERT ON YOUR STORY. Have fun THINKING ABOUT HOW you will DRAW YOUR CHARACTERS.

