

Personal Essay

Personal essays are always organized around a BIG idea.

Authors present their opinion or point of view that is related to a BIG idea. Then they support this opinion with evidence.

Growing Up Takes Time

Big Idea	Evidence
You shouldn't rush yourself to grow up.	The author keeps repeating this idea. The roller coaster story shows that it isn't always great to be "big"

1. Read "Fun With My Grandparents" alone or with a partner.
2. Fill out the Big Idea/Evidence Chart

Title and Big Idea	Evidence
<p>"Fun With My Grandparents"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give people a chance • Don't judge a book by it's cover 	<p>S/he gave his grandparents a chance and they turned out to be fun.</p> <p>"I realized that you have to give people a chance."</p> <p>"I used to think the first idea you had about people was always right."</p>
<p>"The Truth About Older Siblings"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older siblings can be mean • Just because someone is mean to you doesn't mean you have to be mean to them 	<p>The reflection at the end where the author thinks about how she should have been nicer to her sibling.</p> <p>The last two sentences of the essay.</p> <p>Stories about how her sisters were mean to her.</p>
<p>"Don't Stay Mad"</p>	

Topics That Are Important To 4th Graders!

- Pets
- Friendships
- Being Active
- Dealing with people who are unkind
- School
- Reading
- Family members (parents, siblings)
- Stuffed Animals
- Art
- Lunch/Recess
- Worries
- Having Fun
- Playdates
- Dreams
- Dance
- Music
- Happiness
- Sports
- Technology

