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Academic ESL World History: Personal Narrative: A Story that Survives

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UNIT 1. Personal Narrative - A Story That Will Survive

As you know, the oldest book, the Bible, could only survive because of the invention of writing. Reading about the emerging civilizations in Mesopotamia, you follow the development and need for writing. The Sumerians used writing to keep records of transactions, kind of like a receipt or a contract.

A story is also a way of keeping a record. We record special events and matters that are important to us. A story that survives often has a very special event that we focus on. It can also imply moral values, or a lesson for how to behave. In our families we carry on stories that are told by our parents, and grandparents. Without thinking about it, these stories are shared when your family gets together. They survive because they are special and somehow stand out as memorable events.

1. Think of a story in your family that you think will be told to the next generation. Think of the following and take notes:

Where did it take place?

Who participated?

What is the special event that took place?

Is this a sad or happy story? What makes it sad, or what makes it a happy story?

2. Grammar: When you tell or write a story you use **simple past tense** (See grammar link in Unit 1.)

EX. When I **was** a child, we **lived in** a village. My uncle visited us every summer.

He **stayed** for a month.

Also, when telling a story, you need words that connect the sequence of time: **First,**
later on, then, afterwards, suddenly, from that moment on etc.

3. Write a story that has survived in your family. Use as many details as possible. Be creative! Write at least three paragraphs. Remember: You cannot copy text from the internet. Teachers have ways of finding out.