**5th Grade – Unit 1**

**Narratives to Develop Real Experiences**

**Personal Narrative Essay**

***Personal Challenge***

**TEACHER INFORMATION:**

**Ideas to Share with Students:**

During the past several weeks we have been reading a variety of fiction, e.g.,   
*A Package for Mrs. Jewls, Off and Running, and Elisa’s Diary.*  **Teachers may insert alternative titles that are familiar to their** **students.** In our Language Arts class we have examined how characters in a story interact, how they respond to challenges, and how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic. This year in Social Studies we will read stories about the difficulties and hardships that explorers endured in settling the American frontier. Now it is your turn to write your own story (narrative) about overcoming a personal challenge.

**Overview of the Writing Task**:

**Write a personal narrative about a challenge that you faced and how you overcame that challenge. Tell the story of how you got into that situation and how you handled it. What did this challenge teach you about yourself or others?**

**Graphic Organizers:**

**Teachers and/or students may select the graphic organizer of their choice for planning this task. Several examples of graphic organizer planners for opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative story writing have been uploaded into Rubicon.**

**Review with Students:**

**Here are Some Tips for Writing a Personal Story:**

* Remember that a personal narrative allows us to share our life with others.
* Personal narratives provide human interest, spark our curiosity, and draw us closer to the storyteller.
* Good stories are entertaining, informative, lively, and believable; they will mean something to those who write them as well as to those who read them. Your job as a writer is to put the reader in the midst of the action letting him or her live through an experience.