

Writing: Descriptive Essay**Practice**

A **descriptive essay** creates a picture in words to share a vivid experience. Many writers create a description of a person who has had an important impact on their lives. This type of descriptive essay includes the following:

- a main impression of the person
- concrete examples or anecdotes (stories) that show his or her personality
- sensory details that show how the person appears, behaves, or speaks
- information about how the person affected the writer's life

A Read each example from a descriptive essay. Then, answer each question.

1. He had once been a strong man, but the years of working outside had taken their toll on him. Grandpa used to be able to pick me up and twirl me around for hours. Now, he walked slowly, leaning on his old hand-carved walking stick.

What is the main impression you get about the writer's grandfather? _____

2. When Lila walked into a room, everyone turned around. It wasn't that she was beautiful, or even especially brilliant. But when she smiled at you, you felt as though there was no one else around. She made you feel special.

How would you describe Lila, based on this example? _____

B Write information about a person in your family who has had an impact on you. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write a short paragraph that describes him or her.

1. Main impression of the person: _____

2. Concrete example/anecdote about the person: _____

3. Two details about his or her appearance/behavior/speech: _____

4. How he or she affected you: _____
