

**THE FIVE P'S: A STORY RUBRIC DEVELOPED BY DONALD DAVIS**

**PROBLEM:** The main character's world turns upside down

*Tell us about:*

**When you broke something that belonged to somebody else? When you got sick at a very inconvenient moment?**

**When you learned something from a child? When you got into trouble for doing something you had already been told not to do?**

**When you tried to cook something and it didn't turn out?**

**Can you remember a trip you don't want to take again? A party you didn't want to go to? A time you got lost (or separated) from your companions?**

**PEOPLE**

*Introduce us to*

**A friend you have known all your life**

**A teacher to whom you owe a lot.**

In developing (although not necessarily in writing or telling) the story, describe the characters as fully as possible. What do they look like, talk like, move like, how old are they, what are their relationships to each other. And, most importantly, figure out who the story is really about. (It can be a fine story even if it isn't about you).

**PICTURE**

This is not an artistic endeavor. This is an exercise to help you visualize the central moment, central scene, most important part of the story. It is not only ok, it is perfect to use stick figures!

**PLACES**

*Take us:* **on a visit to your favorite childhood store. To school with you. To visit your favorite childhood hiding place. With you when you had to move from one home to another. On a walk around the neighborhood where you lived as a child. A walk through your favorite place. The one spot in all the world where you would like to build a house**  
Describe in as much detail as possible

**PROGRESS:** What did the main character (often you, sometimes somebody else) do, decide, change, and or accept in order to either put the world back where it was or to live with the changed world.

**POINT:** This is what the main character (often you, sometimes somebody else) learn. What changes were made? This point can often be expressed by completing the phrase: "And from then on, I ....."

PROBLEM: \_\_\_\_\_

PEOPLE

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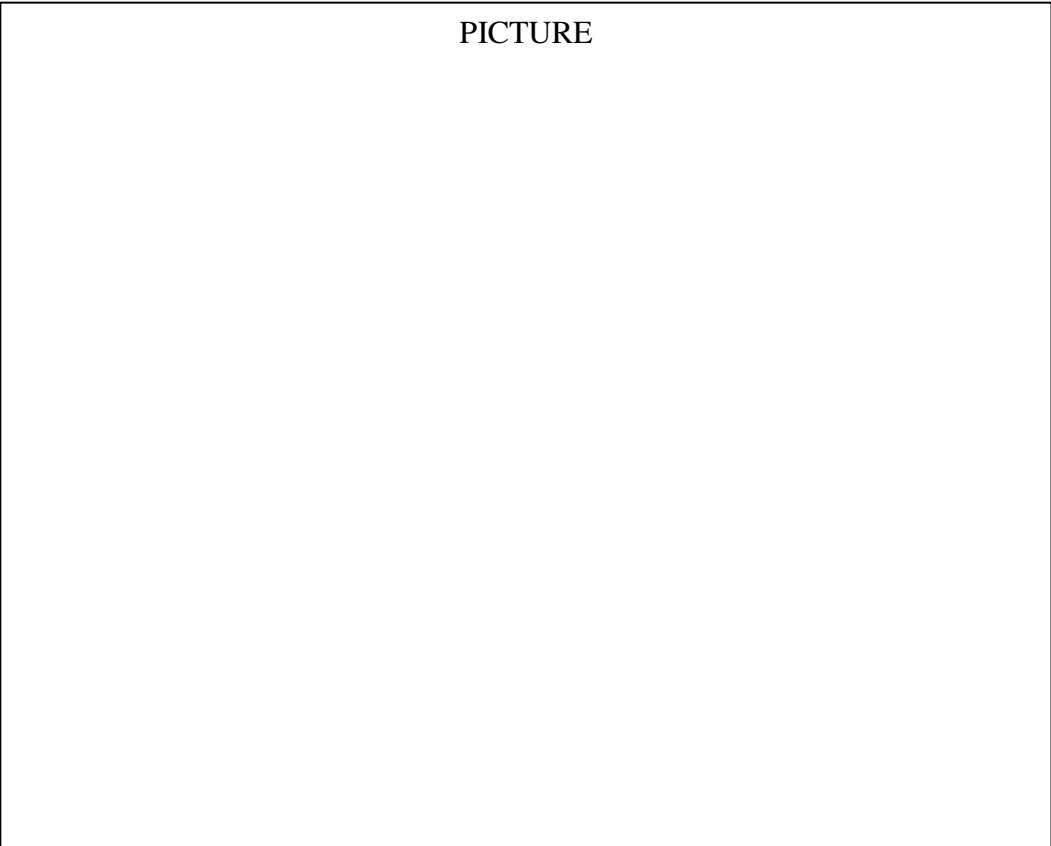
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PICTURE



PLACES

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PROGRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POINT: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a method of developing a personal story presented by Donald Davis in a workshop during the Mesa Storytelling Festival, October, 2008. Prompts from: Davis, Donald. *Telling Your Own Stories*. Little Rock AK: August House, 1993.