

Life's Not Always Fair

A lesson in living

Start

Recall an incident that proves life can be unfair. Maybe you observed the incident or maybe you were actually involved. The point is that what should have happened did not.

Questions

After reading the prompt above, answer the following questions on another sheet of paper. Use your answers to help you think about your subject.

1. Where and when did this happen?
2. Who were the people involved?
3. What was the occasion?
4. What should have been a fair outcome?
5. What happened instead?
6. How did the victim—who could be you—react?
7. How did others react?
8. What were the immediate consequences?
9. What were the long-range consequences?
10. What similar occurrences have you heard of?





Getting Started

Quickly and completely, report the facts that made up this perplexing incident.



Starting Your Story

Keeping the details of your own, write three mini-stories, each told by a different person. Feel free to add and change details to suit the narrative. Tell this from the point of view of . . .

1. the victim right after the event.
2. the victim, many years later, who considers this to have been an important life lesson.
3. an outraged outsider.
4. an outsider who sees this as “just the way things go in life.”
5. an omniscient narrator.
6. someone who benefited from the injustice.
7. a close relative of the victim.

OR: Come up with your own idea for a mini-story.



Write Away!

1. Pick the mini-story you like most and make it longer. Exaggerate the characters. Give the hero more to lose.
2. Study your new draft and consider the following: Is there a lesson to be learned or a theme to be considered within your story?
3. Write the final draft.



Read and Write

Consider reading “The Bass, the River, and Sheila Mant” by W. D. Wetherell. In this story of a first date gone wrong, the protagonist learns a little more about fishing and a lot more about romance.



On the Screen

Try watching the comedy *Miss Firecracker* (rated PG), the story of Carnelle, a small-town woman who has spent her life in the shadow of her glamorous cousin, Elaine. When the time for the annual “Miss Firecracker” beauty contest comes around, Carnelle is determined to win—with or without Elaine’s help.