

## **EXAMPLE SHORT PERSONAL (NONFICTION) STORY**

**Prompt:** Choose a time in your life where you really wanted something, but you didn't know whether you could get it. Write a personal story containing at least five paragraphs and all the elements of a story that shows how you worked to get what you wanted. Use the APA style.

TITLE OF THE STORY: A Surprise Package!

A Surprise Package

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### A Surprise Package!

At 9 years old, I wanted my own dog. My 14-year-old brother, Jesse, had asked for and received a dog for his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. His dog, Sophie, was a beautiful Golden Retriever. Jesse and Sophie loved each other and spent a lot of time together in our house and playing outside. I loved Sophie, too, but I wanted a dog for myself. I wanted a dog to sleep with me and play with me. I started a campaign to convince my parents to give me a dog. I put pressure on my mom and dad to give me a dog for my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday by talking to them, showing them pictures, and enlisting my brother's help.

Each week, I asked my parents to give me a dog. Immediately, I knew that they were not happy about another dog. My dad kept saying things like, "No, we don't need another dog!", "One dog is enough!," and "Dogs are too expensive!" My mom loves dogs, but she kept saying, "We'll see." When we went to the pet store, I showed my mom a picture of a dog, and I asked her to get that dog for me. It was a fluffy white dog, small enough to hold on my lap. I wanted an inexpensive dog that would not eat very much. Then I asked my brother to convince my parents to give me a dog. He started telling them to give me a dog.

On my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, I was at first excited and then depressed. When it was time to open my presents, I got some video games and clothes. They were all very nice gifts. However, I did not get a dog. I started to cry about not getting a dog; I was so sad. My dad said, "I'm sorry, but we aren't going to have another dog!" My mom hugged me and looked sad. After a few days, I decided to continue to ask for a dog. I didn't want to give up. I said, "Mom and Dad, I still want a dog! I'm not giving up!"

Every day, I talked to my parents about wanting a dog. At first, I made some promises. I promised to feed the dog and take the dog on walks. I promised to help around

the house. Next, I did extra chores. I volunteered, and I was helpful in every way. Every day, I continued to ask for a dog. I even begged for a dog! Also, I spent a lot of time taking care of Sophie. I fed her and took her for walks. I wanted them to see me taking care of a dog.

A couple of months later, we celebrated Christmas. Early in the morning, I opened all my presents, but I did not get a dog. I was feeling sad. Then my mom suddenly said, "Oh, I forgot one gift!" She asked Jesse to go upstairs and get it. However, I was so sad; I did not pay much attention to him and started cleaning up the wrapping paper. In a few minutes, Jesse came down the stairs carrying a fluffy white puppy. He handed her to me. She was my Christmas surprise! A couple of days later, we named her Blaze, as in a "blaze of light." She sits next to me, plays with me, and sleeps with me. I am very happy to have my own special friend after asking for her so many times. I learned not to give up hope!