

Name _____

Date _____

Travel Narrative

A travel narrative is a type of nonfiction that records an author's experiences exploring new places. Travel writers don't just present a series of facts; they tell a story that includes characters, a conflict to be resolved, and themes about life.

Read the following travel narrative excerpt and answer the questions.

Lost in the Medina of Fez

The ancient city of Fez, Morocco stretched before me as I stood at the famous Blue Gate entrance to the medina. My guidebook warned that the old city contained over 9,000 narrow alleyways, most unnamed and unmarked on any map. "Stay on the main paths," the local tour guide had advised earlier that morning. Within an hour, I would understand why. The medina hummed with activity—merchants called out prices, the scent of spices filled the air, and artisans hammered copper into intricate lanterns in tiny workshops. I wandered past stalls selling handwoven rugs and ceramic tiles, stopping occasionally to photograph the medieval architecture above.

Eager to discover hidden corners away from other tourists, I turned down a narrow side street. The passage grew increasingly tight, barely wide enough for two people to pass. After several more turns, I realized with growing unease that I had no idea how to return to the main thoroughfare. The tall

Name _____

Date _____

Travel Narrative

buildings blocked any view of landmarks, and my phone had no signal for maps.

An elderly man noticed my confusion and gestured for me to follow him. Despite the language barrier—he spoke Arabic and French while I knew only English—his kind eyes and reassuring nods convinced me to trust him. He led me through a maze of passages I never would have navigated alone.

Eventually, we emerged near the famous Al-Qarawiyyin Library. The man refused my offered payment, instead pointing to his heart and then to the sky before disappearing back into the labyrinth of alleyways. In that moment, I understood that sometimes being lost is the only way to truly discover a place—and its people.

1. What sensory details does the author use to describe the medina? How do these enhance the travel narrative?

2. How does the setting of Fez shape the author's experience in this narrative?

3. What cultural interaction occurs in this narrative, and what does the author learn from it?

Name _____

Date _____

Travel Narrative-Answer Key

1. What sensory details does the author use to describe the medina? How do these enhance the travel narrative?

The author describes merchants calling out prices, scents of spices, sounds of hammering, and visual details of architecture. These sensory details create immersion, helping readers experience the vibrant atmosphere firsthand.

2. How does the setting of Fez shape the author's experience in this narrative?

The labyrinthine structure of Fez's medina with 9,000 unnamed alleyways creates the central challenge of getting lost. The medieval architecture and layout become both the attraction and the obstacle in the narrative.

3. What cultural interaction occurs in this narrative, and what does the author learn from it?

The interaction with the elderly man who helps despite the language barrier teaches the author about local kindness and hospitality. The author learns that getting lost can lead to meaningful cultural connections and deeper travel experiences.