Recounts

A recount lists, in order, a series of small events that happened to a person or character. There are three types of recounts: personal, factual, and imaginative. The text on this page is a factual recount because it reports the facts of an incident as they occurred. Sometimes, to capture a reader’s interest, the writer begins with the last event of the recount, and then describes what happened before this event.

Hydrants, Hoses, and Hope

Shortly after midnight, the fire was still not completely out. Jason and Shauna continued to watch the scene. Two hours earlier, their neighbour, Mrs. Nguyen, had pounded on their door, asking to call 911. While she was cooking a late-night snack, some cooking oil had splashed onto the gas stove and caught fire. She tried to put the fire out with water but that made things worse. Getting herself and her pets out of the house became the priority.

The fire trucks arrived soon after. The firefighters rolled the hoses out and connected them to the fire hydrant down the street. Within minutes, water was flowing from the pumper trucks into hoses and onto the burning house. Hoses on extension ladders rained water down upon neighbouring homes to prevent the fire from spreading.

When the fire was under control, the firefighters entered the house to begin cleanup. They were wearing masks connected to air tanks on their backs. It was not only the smoke from burning materials the firefighters had to worry about; many household items give off poisonous fumes when heated or burned.

Mrs. Nguyen, although comforted by paramedics and friends, was devastated at her loss. Part of the house had been saved, but it would be many months before she could move back in. Still, the firefighters had done their work. They had salvaged some of her house and, most importantly, made sure that Mrs. Nguyen and her pets were safe. There was hope.

**LINKING TO LITERACY**

Create a sequence chart to list each of the events in this recount in order. Begin with a blank sheet of paper. Draw a text box and write the event that came first. Then draw a second box and write the second event. Connect the first box to the second box with an arrow. Continue adding text boxes and arrows until you have listed all of the recount’s events.