

Student's Name

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Date

**ISC Class 12 Narrative Essay Example: "The Last Day at the Old House"**

*The title signals farewell and emotional transition. In ISC narrative essays, titles often reflect memory, change, or loss, hinting at both physical and emotional departure.*

The movers came on a Thursday morning in June, and by noon, the house had become a series of empty rooms that no longer recognized us.

*[This opening immediately establishes setting and emotional tone. A strong narrative essay often begins with a decisive moment of change rather than background explanation.]*

We had lived in that house for eleven years, the whole of my conscious life, in the way that mattered. I had learned to ride a bicycle in the driveway. I had done every examination at the desk in the corner of my room, the one with the view of the guava tree. The guava tree was staying. Everything else was being carried out to a truck.

*[This paragraph builds emotional attachment to place through specific memories. Narrative essays often use concrete details (like the desk and guava tree) to show why a place matters instead of simply stating it.]*

My mother moved through each room with a kind of efficient grief, not crying, but pausing at doorways as if taking a last reading of something. My father supervised the movers with unnecessary precision, redirecting boxes that had already been correctly stacked. I understood that both of them were doing the same thing I was doing: occupying themselves so as not to feel the scale of the departure.

*[Here, character emotions are shown indirectly through behavior. Instead of saying "they were sad," the writer shows grief through actions. This is a key narrative technique called "show, don't tell."]*

I went out to the garden in the afternoon, when the house was mostly empty, and the movers were taking a break. The garden was my grandmother's project; she had died three years earlier, but the roses she had planted along the south wall were still there, taller now, growing in the direction she had intended them to grow. I cut three of them before I could think about whether I was allowed to.

*[This section introduces symbolic connection between family memory and physical space. The roses represent continuity and memory, while the act of cutting them shows emotional impulse rather than logic.]*

We drove away at five o'clock. I did not look back at the house through the rear window, though I had imagined I would. Instead, I held the three roses in my lap and thought

about how places hold people even after people leave them, how my grandmother was still in the garden in some way that I could not account for but could not dismiss.

*[This paragraph marks the transition from physical departure to emotional reflection. Narrative essays often include a moment where action slows and meaning becomes more important than events.]*

The new house was larger and better lit, and within a month, it was familiar enough to call home. But for a long time, I would wake up at night and hear the old house settling (its particular sounds, the creak of the second stair, the way the wind came through the kitchen window) and feel that the distance between where I was and where I had been was greater than kilometers could measure.

*[This section shows lingering emotional impact. Strong narrative essays often contrast past and present to highlight how deeply experiences remain in memory.]*

We carry our homes inside us, even when we leave them behind. The garden still grows in my memory as my grandmother left it. The desk with the view of the guava tree still stands in the corner of a room that no longer exists. That, I have come to believe, is what it means for a place to have mattered: it stays with you longer than geography can explain.

*[The conclusion provides reflection and a universal lesson. ISC narrative essays typically end with insight, where a personal experience becomes a broader idea about life, memory, or identity.]*



College Essay