

GRAMMAR LINK

from **A Narrative of the Captivity**

Mary Rowlandson

Pupil's Edition page 39

Reviewing Parts of Speech 2: Pronouns

When Mary Rowlandson and Mary Rowlandson's children were taken captive, Mary Rowlandson and Mary Rowlandson's children must have been terrified.

How can this sentence be simplified and improved? By the use of pronouns!

When Mary Rowlandson and **her** children were taken captive, **they** must have been terrified.

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of one or more nouns, or in place of another pronoun or pronouns. Pronouns may be divided into several classes.

Class of Pronoun	Uses	Example
Personal		
I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours, you, your, yours, he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, theirs	refers to the one speaking, the one spoken to, or the one spoken about	I admire the faith and strength of character she exhibited in adversity.
Reflexive and Intensive		
myself, ourselves, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves	A reflexive pronoun refers to the subject of the sentence and directs the action of the verb back to the subject.	She learned how to cope with adversity by herself . [reflexive]
	An intensive pronoun emphasizes a noun or another pronoun.	Mary Rowlandson herself wrote the narrative. [intensive]
Demonstrative		
this, that, these, those	points out a person, a place, a thing, or an idea	That is an example of personal experience being more amazing than fiction.
Interrogative		
who, whom, which, what, whose	introduces a question	Who gave her food?
Relative		
that, which, who, whom, whose	introduces a subordinate clause	The child that she saw was her son.
Indefinite		
all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, each other, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, more, most, much, neither, nobody, none, no one, nothing, one, one another, other, several, some, somebody, someone, something, such	refers to a person, a place, or a thing that is not specifically named	The Wampanoag often had nothing to eat.

EXERCISE A Identifying Pronouns

In the following sentences, identify and classify each pronoun.

EXAMPLE: What did the Wampanoag offer her to eat?

What, interrogative; her, personal

1. "One of the Indians got up upon a horse, and they set me up behind him, with my poor sick babe in my lap."

2. "I sat much alone with a poor wounded child in my lap, which moaned night and day, having nothing to revive the body, or cheer the spirits . . ."

3. "This was the comfort I had from them, miserable comforters are [you] all, as he said."

4. "But I was fain to go and look after something to satisfy my hunger, and going among the wigwams, I went into one, and there found a squaw who showed herself very kind to me, and gave me a piece of bear."

5. "[W]ith tears in his eyes, he asked me whether his sister Sarah was dead; and told me he had seen his sister Mary; and prayed me, that I would not be troubled in reference to himself."

EXERCISE B Revising a Paragraph

Revise the following paragraph by using pronouns to eliminate repetition and to combine sentences. You may change words and make any other changes you think will improve the paragraph. The first sentence has been revised as an example.

In *A Narrative of the Captivity*, Mary Rowlandson recalls ^{her} ~~Mary Rowlandson's~~ capture and ordeal. Mary Rowlandson and Mary's daughter Sarah were wounded in a Wampanoag raid. Sarah was six years old when Sarah, Sarah's sister, and Sarah's brother and the children's mother were captured. The capture was only the beginning of the family's ordeal. The Wampanoag captured the family. The Wampanoag had little or no food. The Wampanoag could not feed the Wampanoag, much less the family that had been captured. Because Sarah had no food or medical care, Sarah died nine days after the capture. Mary's other children lived, as did Mary. Mary wrote an account of the family's experiences.