MEMOIR
Definition:

- A memoir is an autobiographical writing, usually a period in one’s life, not the entire life story. It focuses on meaning, moments and may include the author's thought on the interpretation of these events.
General characteristics:

- A memory: a description of an event of the past.
- Written in the first person: told from one person's point of view.
- Based on the truth.
- Reveals the feel of the writer.
- Focused on one event: about one point of view.
- About the author’s experience more than about the event itself.
What’s a good idea?

- Something you: have strong feelings about.
  know a lot about.
  can describe in great deal.

- Something your Audience will be interested in.

- Something your Audience will feel it was worth reading.
Types of Memoirs:

- Memoirs can focus on different subjects:
  - The relationship of the writer:
    - and another person
    - and a place
    - with an animal
    - with an object
Elements of a memoir:
The relationship of the writer and another person:

- Who is the story about? His/ Her relationship to the writer.
- What is the writer’s purpose? What does the writer want you to know about this relationship.
- How does the writer show you how important his/her subject is in the piece? Through his /her thoughts? Through his/her feelings about the subject? Through the detail and the description?
- Where is this person now?
- What are the writer’s thoughts and feelings about this person now?
The relationship of the writer and an object

- What is the object?
- What descriptive word, phrases, or ideas the writer use to describe the object? (adjectives)
- What memories does he/she share about himself/herself and the object?
- How does the writer show the importance of this object? Through his/her thoughts? His/her feelings? Through the details and description?
- Is “how he/she got the object” important in his /her piece? Why/or why not?
- What insight does the writer share? (how he/she feels or thinks about the object)
The relationship of the writer and a place

- Where is this place?
- What is the writer’s purpose in writing this memoir- what’s the main idea that he/she want you to think about this place?
- What descriptive words or ideas does the use to tell about this place?
- How does the writer show you the importance of this place? Through his/her description of it? Through his/her feelings about it? Through his/her thought about it?
- How does the author feel or what does he/she think about the place now?
The relationship of the writer and an animal

- What is the writer’s purpose in writing this memoir—what is the one main idea that he/she wants you to know about the animal?
- How does the writer help you understand the relationship by telling stories or giving examples of the relationship?
- What descriptive words or ideas does the writer use to help the reader get a picture of his/her mind?
- How does the writer show the importance of this relationship? Through his/her thoughts?
- Through his/her feelings? Through the use of details and descriptions?
- How does the writer feel about or what does he think about this animal now?
WORD CHOICE:
The words chosen make it easy for the reader to understand the main idea of the memoir.

Syntax: the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language. The words are placed in the most effective positions for communicating the main idea.

Style: the mode of expressing thought in writing or speaking by selecting and arranging words, considered with respect to clearness, effectiveness

IMAGE
The image supports the tone of the memoir.

The image's color, brightness, and clarity are adjusted to the proper level.

The image does not dominate or overshadow the six words.
Reflecting Activity

- After reading the presentation think about 3 topics that would be a good memoir for you to write.

  1. About a person ____________________
  2. About a place_______________________
  3. About a thing or animal_____________

- These will be checked in class during the next session.