

Memoirs

- A **memoir** is a piece of autobiographical writing, usually shorter in nature than a comprehensive autobiography.

Characteristics of the Memoir Form

- Focus on a brief period of time or series of related events
- Narrative structure, including many of the usual elements of storytelling such as setting, plot development, imagery, conflict, characterization, foreshadowing and flashback, and irony and symbolism
- The writer's contemplation of the meaning of these events in retrospect

- A fictional quality even though the story is true
- Higher emotional level
- More personal reconstruction of the events and their impact
- Therapeutic experience for the memoirist, especially when the memoir is of the crisis or survival type of memoir

6 Word Story

- *There's a literary legend," says Smith magazine memoir editor Rachel Fershleiser, "that Ernest Hemingway was once challenged in a bar to write a story in only six words, a novel that would tell the whole story, and he wrote, 'For sale: baby shoes, never worn.'* "

'For sale: baby shoes, never worn.'

- Think of three scenarios for the background of his story.

Passion? Ambition?
Confusion !
Time will tell





i'd rather be ashes than dust



Assignment

- Assignment: Write a 10-word memoir that describes your personality, feelings, aspirations, thoughts, etc... Basically, who are you in 10 words? In addition, you will create a visual depiction to accompany your five-word memoir.

- Your assignment: You will write a 10 word memoir (notice this is different from the 6 word memoirs that are discussed in this PowerPoint).
- Your 10 word memoir will also include a visual that will relate to your memoir.