

"A memoir is a slice from a person's life—a particular theme or lesson or flavor of experience—it focuses on an aspect of life that is most unusual or fascinating..." "A memoir is about a lesson learned that can be shared with others"

## **'A memoir which has meant something to me'**

**The brief** – 'Head for your bookshelf, the library or an online book-store to retrieve a memoir which has meant something to you. When did it enter your life? How did it then, or does it now, relate to your life story?'

**Brief Oral Review Guidelines:** to share at the beginning of class when you feel so moved!

- Title
- Author
- Focus Sentence/Subtitle
- Universal themes (at least three) such as 'Immigration Experience', 'Grief', 'Career loss'; 'Addiction', 'Career Journey' 'midlife crisis'; 'motherhood/fatherhood'.
- Highlight – how it related to something in/about your life; etc.

### **Topic Guidelines for a Written 'Deeper Dive'** (alternative to monthly 500 words topic)

**Author - Title – Publication Details**

**Author – brief introductory 'bio'**

**Background to your reading this book/short memoir/article -**

**Subtitle or a Focus Sentence for the memoir in your own words**

**Universal themes (at least three)** - eg. Unresolved Trauma; Growing Up; Fatherhood

**Share your answer to at least three of the following prompts which appeal to you**

"A memoir is about a lesson learned that can be shared with others" – how does this seem to apply to the memoir you have chosen?

Target audience? – memoirs tend to have a target audience. Who do you think was being targeted?

Why did the person write the memoir?

What angle did the memoir take to interest and benefit readers?

How does the memoir benefit the reader? What will they learn by reading the memoir?

What story telling elements engaged you when reading the memoir? For example...

- character development
- the memoir's setting(s) (*where does it take place? What is the social climate? What time period is it? What important events are happening in the world? What are the social norms and expectations? What season is it in?*)
- organisation and sequencing
- literary elements

Select a paragraph or two to read out which you found engaging in terms of story-telling skills.

Did the memoir writer reveal whether and why the process of writing was daunting for them?

On reflection, did you benefit from reading this memoir? Do you think the writer achieved their goal in writing this memoir?