

"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"

April Topic: '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?'

A suggested (and flexible) framework to draw on in writing your 500 words

Author - Title – Publication Details

Author – brief introductory 'bio'

Background to your reading this book -

Focus sentence for the memoir in your own words

Universal theme/s which apply (at least three)

Draw from at least three of the following prompts which appeal to you and appear worth sharing

"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 do 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's the weather like? What season is it in?*)
- **plot**
- **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?
