

NAME:

## Introduction to Memoir

What are your most important memories – the ones you don't want to forget? Have you ever thought about preserving them, or recording them so that others can see your experience, too?

### What is a Memoir?

- A memoir is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Memoirs can be short stories or book length.
- They either sound like a summary (such as a report or essay)
- Or they have a storytelling style (that feels like you're reading fiction), which is more common.

### So, it's just a biography?

- Not all memoirs are \_\_\_\_\_, but usually they are.
- Bookstores and websites often lump \_\_\_\_\_ in one category because of their similarity.
- One of the biggest differences is that a memoir doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ (like a biography might).
- A memoir is often \_\_\_\_\_ from their life that are related.
- NOTE: Sometimes a piece of FICTION will have the word "memoir" in the title like \_\_\_\_\_. That doesn't mean it's a real memoir.

HINT  
The root "mem" comes from Latin and means "mind" or "memory". This root gives us words like *remember*, *memorial*, *memory*, *memorize*, and *memorabilia*.

### What is a memoir like?

- Memoirs often look the same at first (and don't always have great cover art).
- There's actually a \_\_\_\_\_ of styles and content going on.

- Some memoirs are strictly \_\_\_\_\_, while others are \_\_\_\_\_ or were mostly written for entertainment.
- Don't assume that all memoirs are serious or boring!!

### Why write a memoir?

- \_\_\_\_\_: Witnesses sometimes tell their stories so that others can live vicariously through them (or learn a lesson from the event). Astronauts and survivors of tragedies are examples of people who have stories worth telling!
- \_\_\_\_\_: Coaches and athletes often share secrets they've learned from their careers.
- \_\_\_\_\_: If you lived in a unique time or setting, your story might be a worthwhile read to let people see a snapshot of life in a particular place.
- \_\_\_\_\_: Comedians sometimes write memoirs that are funny, just as other writers might tell stories in their serious or descriptive styles.
- \_\_\_\_\_: Scientists, politicians, and celebrities might write a specific story to make the general public understand something important (like climate change).
- \_\_\_\_\_: Not all memoirs have to be published, and it's fine to just capture your story.

### Vocabulary to Know