



{SIX-WORD MEMOIR Project}

Legend has it that famous author, Ernest Hemingway, was once challenged to write a story in only six words. He responded with this classic line: “**For sale: baby shoes, never worn.**”

★What is a memoir? _____

The success of Ernest Hemingway’s story lies in the multiple questions and possible meanings that lie between the lines. For example: Why is the narrator selling the shoes? Is the baby grown? Did she die? Did she simply go barefoot or was she never able to walk? Is the narrator the mother, father, a sibling, the former baby? Is the story about the end of childhood or the end of parenthood?

★Write your thoughts here.

Read the following six-word memoirs below:

1. Danced in fields of infinite possibilities.
2. Followed rules, not dreams. Never again.
3. Laughed at all the wrong moments.
4. I live the perfect imperfect life.
5. He left. Mom cried. Roller-coaster ride.
6. I colored outside of the lines.
7. Never really finished anything-besides cake.

★Which memoir spoke to you the most?

★What do you think the author meant?



Memoir Writing Practice

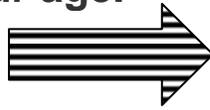
★Analyze the picture to the left. In this box, write words and phrases to describe the woman in this picture.

★Write a six-word memoir about the person in the above picture.

{Six-Word Memoir Project Process}

1. In your Writer's Notebook, you will create a list of words and phrases that describe you, your current life. You will have ten minutes to complete this. **Do not** stop writing until time is called. You are going for quantity, not quality. Do not worry about spelling errors, just write! This will be the second entry in your Writer's Notebook.
2. **Reread** your entry. **Circle** the words or phrases that speak to you the most. Hopefully this will give you a starting place for your six-word memoir. **At this point, your goal is to write a six-word memoir to describe your life right now.** At the bottom of the page, **write** the rough draft of your six-word memoir. Because this memoir is only six words, the words you choose must be powerful. **Use a thesaurus** to change one or two of your average words.
3. **Locate** an image (online, in a magazine, or one from home) that represents your memoir. "Wrap" your memoir into the image in some creative way. Be sure to include your name on the front. The YouTube video we watched had some great ideas. This may be done using technology or by hand.
4. **Write** a paragraph explaining your memoir. Your paragraph should be at least five sentences.

This is my example. Go to smithteens.com to view more examples by kids your age.



{Memoir Rubric} This is how you will be graded:

Memoir Entry in Writer's Notebook is complete. (Words you liked are circled and your rough draft is written at the bottom of the page.)	+25
Final Copy is published. (You wrapped your memoir around an image or magazine picture in some creative way.) Your memoir is spelled correctly. Your name is on the front.	+50
You wrote a paragraph explaining your memoir. (Your paragraph has at least five sentences.)	+25