

# Features of Memoir Writing

- The voice is first-person singular: I (not *we*, *one*, or *you*).
- The writer's thoughts, feelings, reactions, and reflections are revealed.
- There's enough context or background information to understand the events of the story.
- The introduction or lead orients readers and invites them into the experience.
- Descriptive, sensory language is used to help readers envision what is happening and where and when it is happening.
- Dialogue is included in order to bring out each character's voice and reveal the characters' traits and relationships.
- The pace is slowed down so readers can "enter" the story and live it, moment to moment, with the characters.
- Events unfold naturally, using smooth transitions that connect ideas, thoughts, and reflections.
- The writer presents relevant details that fit with the specific memory and his or her theme or purpose.
- Illustrations and/or photographs are often included to make the story feel more personal and real.
- The conclusion is deliberate; it represents a writer's decision about how to leave his or her readers, often reflecting on the experience presented.