

# Unit 2 Memoir

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**  
Course(s): **English 11 Honors**  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **10 blocks**  
Status: **Published**

## Course Description

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Credits: 5

Prerequisite: 85 in English 10 Honors OR 91 in English 10 CP with teacher recommendation

Grade: 11

This course is designed for the student who has developed an exceptional proficiency in critical reading and thinking as well as advanced writing skills. Students are challenged with numerous fictional literary readings from several genres and related non-fiction. In addition, students complete many writing assignments and extensive outside readings. Students explore the modes of writing on a more sophisticated level; journal writing will address students' creative talents while other assignments will be analytical in nature. Students use MLA and The BIG6 information literacy model to conduct problem-based research projects.

## Unit Description

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### Stage 1-- Desired Results

#### Unit Purpose:

In this unit, students will read memoirs to craft their own memoir. The 11th grade Honors teacher will teach the same standards from 9th and 10th grade but will increase the rigor. The 11th grade teacher will teach the skills based on the explicit standards and 12th grade teachers refresh/review those same skills from the year prior to check for complete understanding.

#### Established Goals:

The main focus in 11th grade will be to write a memoir.

**New Jersey Student Learning Standards:** English Language Arts Grades 11 and 12

#### Explicit:

W.11-12.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

A. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

B. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

C. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

D. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

E. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

W.11-12.5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

L.11-12.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

A. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.

L.11-12.2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

A. Observe hyphenation conventions.

B. Spell correctly.

L.11-12.3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

A. Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.

## **Implicit:**

W.11-12.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

W.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

W.11-12.10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes.

L.11-12.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

A. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

B. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).

C. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.

D. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

L.11-12.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

A. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.

B. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

L.11-12.6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

## **Understandings:**

## **Essential Questions:**

### **Students will understand that...**

- Memoirists reflect on their own lives.
- Memoirists reflect and revise their own drafts to truly tell the experience they are sharing.
- Memoirists study strategies to heighten their level of writing.
- Memoirs are meant to show readers all of an author's emotions.

- How can a writer not only tell a good story, but also hope to relate to readers?

- What is the meaning of a memoir?

- What literary devices do memoirists use to support their claims and story they are trying to tell?

- How can a writer use personal "snapshots" to help or influence readers?

### **Students will know...**

- How to experiment with ideas and literary devices including figurative language.
- How to draft, reflect, revise, edit and conference.
- How to avoid writer's block.

### **Students will be able to...**

- Write to show an event that had meaning in their lives.
- Determine how to retell that event.
- Explore their writer's notebook and choose a topic.
- Revise details, word choice, and literary devices.

- Edit with peers.

## **Stage 2 -- Assessment Evidence**

### **Summative Assessments:**

1. Student written Memoir
2. Writing On-Demand Skills Assessment

### **Formative Assessments:**

Quizzes (3 "Minor" Assessments)-  
Demonstration of explicitly-taught skills through  
1. grammar quiz, 1. rough draft, 1. unit quiz  
(influential skill in memoir quiz)

Writer's's Notebook (5 "Homework" student-selected entries) - Five entries over the course of the unit in which writing skills are explored.

### **Stage 3 -- Learning Plan**

#### **Learning Activities:**

- Introduce the standards, essential questions, assessment evidence and corresponding rubrics, and calendar of lessons to students.
- Establish each student's prior understanding of narrative/memoir writing through a relatable hook (story, survey, posing question, etc.) or through individual conferences.
- Execute standards-based mini-lessons to develop skills and strategies.
- Collaborate with an assigned partner to reflect and revise.
- Complete activities in order to review the writing process
- Confer individually with teacher and peers
- Publish personal narrative.

#### **Mini-Lessons**

- 1 & Multiple POVs
- Narrator vs. Characters
- Dialogue (stream of consciousness, experimental)
- Pacing
- Sequencing Impact on Tone - Build toward tone and outcome (mystery, suspense, resolution)
- Sophisticated techniques and figurative language (metaphor, apostrophe, senses)

- Reflection

- The writing process for a memoir

## **Resources**

### **Works of Study:**

- A Memoir.

### **Potential Works of Study**

- All student selected choices available through classroom library, school or public library, or bought by student.

Some Classroom Library Examples Include:

- SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy Seal by Howard E. Wasdin & Stephen Templin
- On the Road by Jack Kerouac
- The Autobiography of An Ex-Colored Man by James Weldon Johnson
- The Color Purple by Alice Walker
- Night by Elie Wiesel
- Shadow Divers by Robert Kurson
- Breaking Night by Liz Murray
- Girls Like Us by Rachel Lloyd
- A Thousand Naked Strangers by Kevin Hazzard
- Medium Raw by Anthony Bourdain
- Yes, Chef by Marcus Samuelsson
- The Job by Steve Osborne
- Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
- A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah
- We Should Hang Out Sometime by Josh Sundquist

- A Place to Stand by Jimmy Santiago Baca
- You'll Grow Out of It by Jessi Klein
- The Wild Truth by Carine McCandless
- Love Warrior by Glennon Doyle Melton
- Choosing Hope by Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis
- How to Murder Your Life by Cat Marnell
- Dear Teen Me edited by Miranda Kenneally and E. Kristin Anderson
- Writing My Wrongs by Shaka Senghour
- How Dare the Sun Rise by Sandra Uwiringiyimana
- Not My Father's Son by Alan Cumming
- Forever Liesl by Charmian Carr
- Americanized by Sara Saedi
- The Best We Could Do by Thi Bui
- In Order to Live by Yeonmi Park
- Hunger by Roxane Gay
- Into Thin Air by Krakauer
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
- Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
- Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt
- Eat Pray Love by Gilbert
- Running with Scissors by Burroughs
- The Color of Water by James McBride
- The Dreams of my Father by Barack Obama
- Believe It by Nick Foles
- Manning: A Father, his sons and a football legacy by Archie and Peyton Manning
- Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
- Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby

- Between A Rock and a Hard Place by Aron Ralston
- I AM Malala by Malala Youseff
- The Bite of Mango by Mariatu Kamara
- Laughing at my Nightmare by Shane Burcaw
- Carly's Voice: Breaking Through Autism by Arthur Fleischmann and Carly Fleischmann
- A Different Life: Growing Up Learning Disabled and Other Adventures by Quinn Bradley
- Some Assembly Required: the not-so secret life of a transgender teen by Arin Andrews
- Naturally Tan by Tan France
- Forward: A Memoir by Abby Wambach
- The Secrets of My Life by Caitlyn Jenner
- Boy Erased: a Memoir by Garrard Conley

**SAT Connection:**

*The Official SAT Study Guide*

*Chapter 6 Command of Evidence*

*Chapter 7 Words in Context*

*Chapter 9 Reading: Information and Ideas*

*Chapter 10 Reading Rhetoric*

*Chapter 11: Reading Synthesis*

*Chapter 14 Writing and Language: Expression of Ideas*

*Chapter 15 Writing and Language: Standards of English Conventions*

**Vocabulary:**

- Student selected vocabulary
- Academic Terminology: memoir, personal narrative, cite specific textual evidence. Conclusions drawn from the text, strong and thorough textual evidence, read closely, where the text leaves matters uncertain, trace the text's explanation or depiction, impact of author's choices, interpret, advance an explanation or analysis, integrate, interpretations, representation of a subject or key scene, source text, treatment, version.



LA.L.11-12.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.11-12.1.A	Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.
LA.L.11-12.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.11-12.2.A	Observe hyphenation conventions.
LA.L.11-12.2.B	Spell correctly.
LA.L.11-12.3	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
LA.L.11-12.3.A	Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.
LA.L.11-12.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.11-12.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.11-12.4.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).
LA.L.11-12.4.C	Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.
LA.L.11-12.4.D	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
LA.L.11-12.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.11-12.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.
LA.L.11-12.5.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
LA.L.11-12.6	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
LA.W.11-12.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
LA.W.11-12.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
LA.W.11-12.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.W.11-12.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

LA.W.11-12.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
LA.W.11-12.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
LA.W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
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LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
LA.W.11-12.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes.

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS**

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### **Accommodations and Modifications:**

#### **Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners,**

#### **Students at Risk of Failure, Students with 504s, Gifted & Talented Students**

#### Strategies and Practices that Support Students with Disabilities:

- Use of visual and multisensory formats
- Use of assisted technology
- Use of prompts
- Modification of content and student products
- Testing accommodations
- Authentic assessments
- Small group/One to one
- Additional time
- Review of directions
- Student restates information
- Space for movement or breaks
- Extra visual and verbal cues and prompts

- Preferential seating
- Follow a routine/schedule
- Rest breaks
- Verbal and visual cues regarding directions and staying on task
- Checklists
- Immediate feedback

#### Strategies and Practices that Support Gifted & Talented Students:

- Adjusting the pace of lessons
- Curriculum compacting
- Inquiry-based instruction
- Independent study
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Interest-based content
- Student-driven instruction
- Real-world problems and scenarios
- Problem-based learning
- Interest-based research
- Authentic problem-solving

#### Strategies and Practices that Support English Language Learners:

- Pre-teaching of vocabulary and concepts
- Personal vocabulary
- Text-to-speech
- Simplified instructions
- Visual learning, including graphic organizers

- Use of cognates to increase comprehension
- Teacher modeling
- Pairing students with beginning English language skills with students who have more advanced English language skills
- Scaffolding
- Word walls
- Sentence frames
- Think-pair-share
- Cooperative learning groups

#### Strategies and Practices that Support At-Risk Students:

- Guided notes and/or scaffold outline for written assignments
- Guided reading
- Introduce key vocabulary before the lesson
- Work in a small group
- The lesson taught again using a differentiated approach
- Allow answers to be given orally or dictated
- Use visuals / Anchor Charts
- Leveled texts according to ability
- Choice Boards
- Literature circles
- Project-based learning
- Graphic organizers
- Choice books
- Mini-Workshops to reteach or extend
- Jigsaw
- Goal-setting with students

- Use of a reading buddy
- Exploration based on interest

#### Strategies and Practices that Support Students with 504 Plans:

- Follow all the 504 plan modifications
- Text-to-speech/audio-recorded selections
- Amplification system as needed
- Leveled texts according to ability
- Fine motor skill stations embedded in rotation as needed
- Modified or constrained spelling word lists
- Provide anchor charts with high-frequency words and phonemic patterns

## Standards

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LA.L.11-12.4.C	Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.
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LA.W.11-12.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
LA.W.11-12.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
LA.W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
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LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
LA.W.11-12.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes.

## Anchor Standards

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LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R1	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R2	Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R3	Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R4	Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R5	Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger

	portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R6	Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R7	Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R8	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R9	Analyze and reflect on how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R10	Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently with scaffolding as needed.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## **Interdisciplinary Standards**

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LA.RH.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).
LA.RH.11-12.5	Analyze in detail how a complex primary source is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole.
LA.RST.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 11-12 texts and topics.
LA.RST.11-12.5	Analyze how the text structures information or ideas into categories or hierarchies, demonstrating understanding of the information or ideas.

## **Holocaust & Amistad Connections**

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SOC.6.1.12.A.3.h	Examine multiple perspectives on slavery and evaluate the claims used to justify the arguments.
SOC.6.1.12.D.5.d	Relate varying immigrants' experiences to gender, race, ethnicity, or occupation.
SOC.6.3.12.D.1	Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or individual civil rights/privacy.

## **Career Readiness, Life Literacies, & Key Skills (CLKS):**

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9.4.12.CI.1: Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas

9.4.12.CT.2: Explain the potential benefits of collaborating to enhance critical thinking and problem solving

9.4.12.CT.4: Participate in online strategy and planning sessions for course-based, school-based, or other projects and determine the strategies that contribute to effective outcomes.

9.4.12.IML.2: Evaluate digital sources for timeliness, accuracy, perspective, credibility of the source, and relevance of information, in media, data, or other resources.

## **Computer Science & Design Thinking (CS & DT):**

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8.1.8.E.1 - Effectively use a variety of search tools and filters in professional public databases to find information to solve a real world problem.

8.1.8.D.4 - Assess the credibility and accuracy of digital content

## **LGBTQ & Persons With Disabilities**

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### **Persons with Disabilities**

Potential Works of Study:

- *The Bite of Mango* by Mariatu Kamara

- *Laughing at my Nightmare* by Shane Burcaw



- *Carly's Voice: Breaking Through Autism* by Arthur Fleischmann and Carly Fleischmann
- *A Different Life: Growing Up Learning Disabled and Other Adventures* by Quinn Bradley

## **LGBTQ**

Potential Works of Study:

- *Some Assembly Required: the not-so secret life of a transgender teen* by Arin Andrews
- *Naturally Tan* by Tan France
- *Forward: A Memoir* by Abby Wambach
- *The Secrets of My Life* by Caitlyn Jenner
- *Boy Erased: a Memoir* by Garrard Conley