



Dear Class of 2017:

I am pleased to welcome you to Senior English. It is a course designed to solidify the skills you have gained in reading works of fiction and nonfiction. The goal is to foster independence and critical thinking when you read—whatever you read. The printed word is powerful. All too often, people believe what they read simply because it appeared in print in the newspaper or online. This course is meant to teach you to be thoughtful, weigh the evidence, analyze, and then come to your own conclusion. Throughout the year, your teachers will be encouraging you to read frequently and widely and reflect upon your reading.

We know summer is a time for you to relax, recharge and enjoy your hard-earned vacation, but we also want you to use your time productively. Therefore, we are requiring students to read the *New York Times* best selling memoir *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls. During your first week back at school your English teacher will be assigning an in-class writing assignment on your book -so be prepared! Please complete your Six Word Memoir assignment [scroll down] which will be due the first day back at school. In addition, we are including a [recommended reading list](#) from which you may select supplementary books to read for your pleasure.

Students need not like or agree with everything they read. Sometimes a book that provokes dissent is as stimulating as a book that echoes our own thoughts. Our hope is that your summer reading will engage your minds, stimulate thought and help you to clarify and become more comfortable with your individual and unique perspectives on life. Best wishes for a healthy and productive summer.

Sincerely,

Mica Bloom

English Department Chair

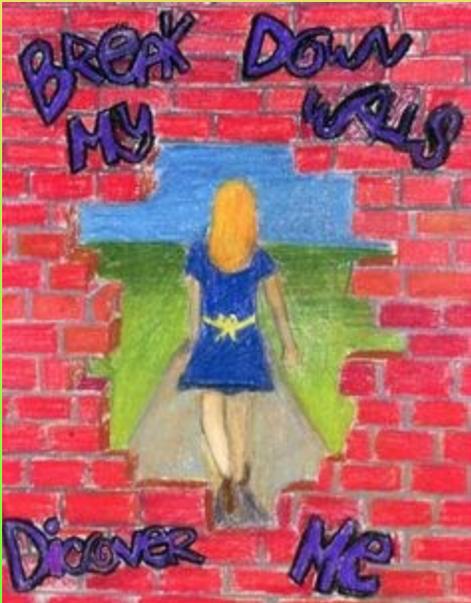
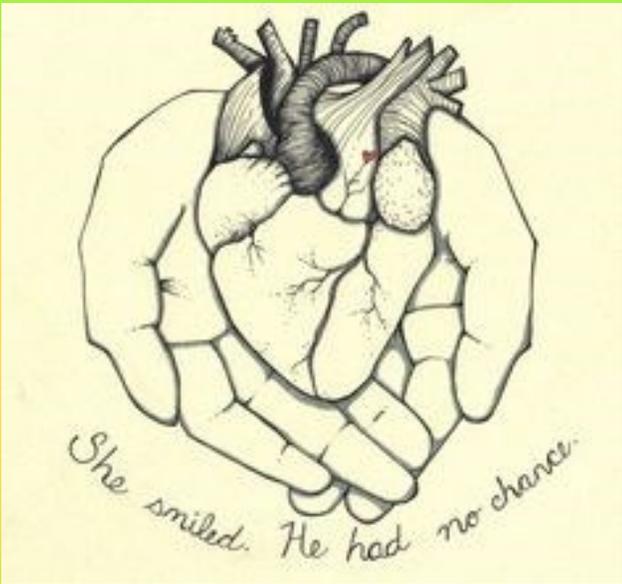
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**What is a Six-Word Memoir?** The word "memoir" has the same root as the word "memory." In six words only, the Six-Word Memoir captures an important part of your life. Legend has it that Hemingway was once challenged to write a story in only six words. His response? "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." Starting in 2006, SMITH Magazine asked its readers for their own six-word memoirs. They sent in short life stories in droves, from the bitter-sweet ("Cursed with cancer, blessed with friends") and poignant ("I still make coffee for two") to the inspirational ("Business school? Bah! Pop music? Hurrah") . . . ."

**1. Write Your Six Word Memoir**

**2. Create or find an image that you feel compliments your words**

**3. Join the visual with your text to create a striking poster**



### **Tips for writing a six-word memoir:**

Show, Don't Tell: Using concrete words “Sixteen years with pencil in hand.” and descriptions of actions “Woke up. Fell Asleep. Missed Bus.” can help you create your memoir if they do more than just tell.

Scramble your sentences: Experiment with sentence structure by putting your memoir in one, two, or three-word sentences. “The stories saved me from reality” is communicated more clearly when it is broken into two sentences: “Suffered from reality. Stories saved me.” Also, don't forget to play with the punctuation!

Liven it up: Using figurative language to make comparisons (metaphor) or adding human qualities (personification) can give your memoir more life. For example, “School. 12 years of hard work,” can be livened up with a metaphor: “Sentenced to 12 years of school”.

Use your own voice: You can hear the author's voice in “Doctor? I wanna be a T-Rex!” and “Fishin' long into the starry night.”

Sometimes honesty is the best policy: Some of the best memoirs are brutally honest. “My hightop fade trampled my adversaries.”; “I am Ironman. Minus the armor.”

Revise, revise, revise: Remember, there is no such thing as a magical writing fairy.

**Please note all your six word memoirs will be entered into TURNITIN.COM**