

Evaluating Memoir: What to look for

Choose a memoir to read:

- (1) examine how it is organized
- (2) What is the significance of the title? Is it literal: symbolic? metaphorical?
- (3) How does the title serve the text?
- (4) Look at the front material: is there an introduction? Dedication? Quotation? Graphics? Prologue? How do these pages, if any, enhance the memoir?
- (5) Is there a table of contents? Chapters? Sections? What is the overall effect of the divisions? Are there photographs or other visual materials?
- (6) Look at the text itself: is there dialogue? What tense does the author use? How do these impact the memoir, if at all?