

## English Language Arts

## Grade 9

### Days 1 & 2

Genre: Memoir

Task: Read and annotate two or more memoirs.

#### Day 1 Directions:

Read the following narrative memoir passages:

- An excerpt from “Living to Tell the Tale” by Gabriel García Marquez:  
[http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/PDF/master\\_class\\_marquez.pdf](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/PDF/master_class_marquez.pdf)
- A memory of David Balme: <https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Courage-Leading-a-Team-into-the-Unknown> (starts on page 3/italicized text)

#### Day 2 Directions:

Read the memoir poem of George Ella Lyon’s “Where I’m From” and 3 or 4 memoir poems from Booksie.

- <http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html> and <http://www.booksie.com/memoir/poetry>

\*These web sites are not controlled or approved by the NYC Department of Education

#### **While you read and annotate the text:**

- Think about why this moment in time is important to the author.
- What is the moment of change? How does the author reveal this to the reader?
- How is the author changed by the experience?
- How does the structure of the writing help convey the message?
- Keep track of new and specific vocabulary. First, try context clues to figure out the definition. Then, ask a peer or family member. If needed, consult  
<http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english-cobuild-learners>

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## Days 3 & 4

Genre: Memoir

Task: Write your own memoir.

### Day 3 Directions:

Building on your knowledge of memoirs from yesterday, and then write about an important event in your life that could possibly be included in your own memoir. Today brainstorm and draft you memoir.

### Day 4 Directions:

Today revise and finalize your memoir.

#### **While you write:**

- Quick write a list of meaningful events in your life. Then choose one to three events that connect together to reveal a particular theme or idea that is important to you.
- Decide whether you will write a narrative memoir or memoir poem.
- If you choose to write a narrative memoir, you might organize it:
  - sequentially, (telling the events in the order that they happened and weaving reflection about lessons learned or significance throughout or at the end of the memoir), or
  - non-sequentially (begin in the present and use flashbacks to tell the story – weave reflection throughout) or
  - bookended (beginning with reflection on understanding at the time—telling the event(s) in the order they happened—ending with reflection on current understanding of the events).
- If you choose to write a memoir poem, you might organize it like the examples you read and write a free verse poem.

## Days 5 & 6

Genre: Biography

Task: Read and annotate two or more biographies.

### Directions:

Today you will read or view information about some of the authors from day 1. In general, think about how the person's total life experiences influenced what they found important to put in their memoirs (that you read on day 1).

Read all of the following:

1. Gabriel García Marquez - <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gabriel-Garcia-Marquez>
2. David Balme - [http://www.207squadron.rafinfo.org.uk/balme/gotthelf\\_balme.htm](http://www.207squadron.rafinfo.org.uk/balme/gotthelf_balme.htm)
3. George Ella Lyon - <http://www.georgeellalyon.com/about.html> and <http://www.georgeellalyon.com/activism.html>

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### **While you read and annotate the text:**

- Think about where the person was raised and his/her early life and how this influenced their later life experiences and career choices.
- What were the cultural influences? What person or persons seemed to influence the author the most?
- How did the time period influence the person's experiences and/or beliefs?
- Is there information in the informational text that is different or missing from the narrative accounts or vice versa?

## Days 7 & 8

Genre: Autobiography

Task: Write your own autobiography.

### Day 7 Directions:

You will write your own autobiography (noting how the story of your life is related differently when told as an autobiography as opposed to the memoir that you wrote on Day 2). As you write your autobiography, consider how your family, neighborhood, culture and experiences have influenced you. Today brainstorm and draft your autobiography.

### Day 8 Directions:

Today revise and finalize your autobiography.

#### **While you write:**

- Make a list or timeline of the major events in your life.
- Jot a quick note beside each event to describe the people involved, setting, and significance of this event. This list or timeline can be used as your draft plan.
- Talk with relatives or friends to share your draft plan and ask them to remind you of any events or people you may have forgotten. You might also look through photographs or watch family videos.
- As you begin to write your autobiography, decide which events have the most importance and will be fully elaborated and which have less significance and may be quickly summarized.



## Days 9 & 10

### Independent Reading

#### Directions:

Read a book of your choosing. Write the title and author below.

*\* A note to parents and guardians: Talk with your children about the books they are reading.*

If you would like an e-book, go to <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral>

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **While Reading:**

Jot down your ideas about what you're reading.

#### **After Reading:**

After reading several of the next chapters in your book...

For Fiction: write a one page response analyzing the characters, and their motivations. Consider the conflict, setting, relationships of characters and any other significant details that you find important.

For Non-Fiction: write a one page explaining what you learned and how it confirmed, challenged or changed your thinking today. Tell your reader how you became smarter about that topic.