

Literary Autobiography Journal Prompts

Learning To Read:

- 1) Do you remember learning to read?
- 2) Who taught you to read? Family member, friend, teacher?
- 3) Were you read to before you learned to read?
- 4) Did you see your family members read? For pleasure? For work?
- 5) Were you excited to learn to read?
- 6) Was it easy for you to learn to read or did you struggle? Why?
- 7) What type of book did you learn to read from?
- 8) Did your teacher make the students read out loud? How did that make you feel?
- 9) Were you taught to look up words you do not know when you come across them? Do you still do this?
- 10) What kind of feedback did the teacher give you? Was it positive? Were you told you were a bad reader?

Access to Books/Reading Material:

- 1) Were there books or other reading material in your home as a child? What kind?
- 2) What was your access to books/reading material as a child?
- 3) Was education stressed in your home?
- 4) Did your family own books?
- 5) Did your school have a library? A full or part-time librarian?
- 6) Were you taught how to use the library?
- 7) Did anyone ever take you to a public library or Bookmobile? Did you have a library card?
- 8) Did your school sponsor the Scholastic Book Fair? Were you able to participate?
- 9) Are your memories of it positive, negative or neutral?

Emotional Response to Books/Reading Material:

- 1) What is the first book you remember loving? Why?
- 2) What is the first book you remember hating? Why?
- 3) Has a book ever made you cry? Made you scared? Made you laugh out loud? Explain.
- 4) Is there a book that you would say changed your life?

Reading Habits:

- 1) What does the word "literacy" mean to you? Create your own personal definition for the term "literacy."

- 2) Do you currently read for pleasure? Why or why not?
- 3) Do your friends read for pleasure?
- 4) Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction or another genre? Why?
- 5) Are there particular titles, authors, topics, or genres that you return to again and again?
- 6) Do you read more than one book at a time?
- 7) Do you listen to audio books? Do they count as literacy?
- 8) What about graphic novels, are they literature?
- 9) What other “literacies” do you have? Explain.

Cultural and Language Challenges:

- 1) Did you learn to read in a different language before English?
- 2) Did you go to school somewhere other than the United States? If so, how was the system similar and different to the US?
- 3) As a child did you need to act as a translator, interpreter, or scribe for your family members? If so, explain.

Writing Habits:

- 1) Do you like reading but hate writing? Or vice versa?
- 2) Do you write for pleasure?
- 3) Have you ever kept a journal or diary? Do you still have it? What kinds of thoughts or events would you record? Did journaling help you through certain periods of your life?
- 4) Have you ever had a pen pal? Were you faithful about replying? Why or why not?
- 5) Do you blog? If so, on what subjects?
- 6) Has technology changed how you write? How?

Quotation Prompts:

- 1) “The limits of my language are the limits of my world.” -Wittgenstein
- 2) “Always remember that it is impossible to speak [write] in such a way that you cannot be misunderstood: there will always be some who misunderstand you.” — Karl R. Popper.
- 3) “The man who can read but doesn’t has no advantage over the man who can’t.” -Mark Twain