For your summer reading assignment, as preparation for writing your college essay, you are going to read any memoir of your choosing. During the first week of school you will have an in-class assessment, which will test you on your knowledge of the book you chose to read.

In writing his own memoir, Gore Vidal defined the genre as, “how one remembers one's own life, while an autobiography is history, requiring research, dates, facts double-checked”. A memoir, like an autobiography, is about the life of the author. Unlike an autobiography, a memoir doesn’t tell the story of an entire life, but rather a story from the author’s life. This story may be a single incident, a time period, or about a specific facet of the author’s history (career, childhood, parenthood, etc.).

What to look for when selecting your memoir:

- The author should be the person who the story is about.
  - Look for one that has been written by the actual person, not by a ghostwriter (this is often the case with celebrities).
- Often, the word “memoir” will appear in the title or sub-title.
- Read the inside jacket and the back of the book – the word “memoir” should appear there.
- Do your research – there are “fake memoirs” out there (notably, A Million Little Pieces). Google the title and you’ll know if that’s the case.
- Find a subject/person that interests you – all sorts of people write memoirs (celebrities, politicians, U.S. military/intelligence officers, etc.).

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Suggested Titles

- Bossypants by Tina Fey
- Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas
- Is Everyone Hanging out Without Me? And Other Concerns by Mindy Kaling
- Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan
- Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly by Anthony Bourdain
- Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt
- Teacher Man by Frank McCourt
- Tis by Frank McCourt
- Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northrup
- The Glass Castle by Jeanette Wall
- Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel
- Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs
- Dress Your Family in Couduroy and Denim by David Sedaris

Book Title Due to Ms. Bodine: Friday June 22, 2018