{SIX-WORD MEMOIRS}

A Six-Word Memoir is the story of your life—some part of it or all of it—told in exactly six words.

* What is a memoir?

Legend has it that famous author, Ernest Hemingway, was once challenged to write a story in only six words. He responded with this classic line: “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.”

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The success of Ernest Hemingway’s story lies in the multiple questions and possible meanings that lie between the lines.

For example:

Why is the narrator selling the shoes?

Is the baby grown?

Did she die?

Did she simply go barefoot or was she never able to walk?

Is the narrator the mother, father, a sibling, the former baby?

Is the story about the end of childhood or the end of parenthood?

Read the following six-word memoirs below:

1. Danced in fields of infinite possibilities.

2. Followed rules, not dreams. Never again.

3. Laughed at all the wrong moments.

4. I live the perfect imperfect life.

5. He left. Mom cried. Roller-coaster ride.

6. I colored outside of the lines.

7. Never really finished anything-besides cake.

* Which memoir spoke to you the most? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* What do you think the author meant? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In your Writing Notebook, create your own 6 word memoir with an illustration.