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Part 1: Stories from Life (6 sessions)

Students learn about memoir and autobiography. They analyze several taped and published memoirs for storytelling elements, such as narrative arc, point of view, characterization, and figurative and sensory language.

Activity 1A: Lend Me Your Ear

1A.1: <i>Introducing Memoir</i>	Students listen to an audio story and discuss what makes it compelling. They are introduced to the unit and the unit project.
1A.2: <i>What's My Storyline?</i>	Students write in their journals in response to a quotation about the value of personal narratives.

Activity 1B: The Genre of Memoir

1B.1: <i>Reading for Narrative Technique</i>	Students read short memoirs and analyze their authors' use of storytelling techniques. Students brainstorm a list of characteristics of successful memoirs.
1B.2: <i>Why Are You Telling Me This?</i>	Students consider why people might write memoirs and why other people might like to read them.

Part 2: Welcome to My World (9 sessions)

Students explore sources of interesting anecdotes and stories in their own lives and select memoir ideas. They outline, write, revise, and present their own memoirs.

Activity 2A: Sources of Memoir

2A.1: <i>Mining Memory</i>	Students explore sources of interesting anecdotes and stories in their own lives.
2A.2: <i>The Diamond in the Rough</i>	Students choose three memoir ideas to develop further, and meet in groups to select their strongest idea.

Activity 2B: Writing Your Memoir

2B.1: <i>Starting Strategies</i>	Students develop chronologies for their memoirs and discuss <i>focus</i> and <i>audience</i> . They read a memoir written by a student or a young adult.
2B.2: <i>Writing the Draft</i>	Students write and edit first drafts of their memoirs and prepare second drafts.
2B.3: <i>Ready for Prime Time</i>	Students read their drafts aloud in groups to focus on presentation and engaging an audience. They revise their memoirs, based on the feedback they receive, and complete a self-assessment.