memoir examples for highschool students

memoir examples for highschool students are essential resources for young writers and readers eager to explore personal storytelling. Memoirs offer insight into real-life experiences, allowing students to connect deeply with diverse perspectives and reflect on their own journeys. This article provides a comprehensive overview of memoirs suited for high school students, including notable published memoirs, short memoir essays, and student-written samples. You'll also find practical tips on how to write a compelling memoir, understand essential elements, and discover why reading memoirs builds empathy and writing skills. Whether you're searching for inspiration in the classroom or guidance for your next writing assignment, this guide covers everything you need to know about memoir examples for highschool students.

- Understanding Memoirs: Definition and Importance
- Popular Published Memoir Examples for High School Students
- Short Memoir Essays Suitable for Teen Readers
- Student-Written Memoir Examples
- Key Elements of an Effective Memoir
- How to Write a Memoir: Practical Tips for High School Students
- Benefits of Reading and Writing Memoirs in High School
- Frequently Asked Questions about Memoir Examples for High School Students

Understanding Memoirs: Definition and Importance

A memoir is a nonfiction narrative that recounts personal experiences and memories. Unlike autobiographies, which cover an entire life, memoirs focus on specific moments, themes, or periods. For high school students, memoirs serve as both models for writing and windows into the lives of others. Reading and analyzing memoir examples for highschool students helps develop empathy, critical thinking, and narrative skills. Memoirs also encourage self-reflection and provide inspiration for young writers to share their own stories. By examining authentic voices and diverse backgrounds, students learn the power of storytelling and the importance of individual perspectives.

Popular Published Memoir Examples for High School Students

Many published memoirs resonate deeply with high school readers, offering relatable themes and

engaging storytelling. These memoirs are frequently included in classroom reading lists and recommended for independent reading due to their accessibility and insightful content. Featuring diverse authors, these works address topics such as identity, overcoming adversity, family dynamics, and self-discovery.

Recommended Published Memoirs

- "I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai Chronicles Malala's fight for girls' education in Pakistan and her survival after being targeted by the Taliban.
- "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls Recounts the author's unconventional and often challenging childhood, highlighting resilience and hope.
- "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah Provides a humorous yet powerful account of growing up in South Africa during apartheid.
- "Night" by Elie Wiesel Shares Wiesel's harrowing experiences as a teenager during the Holocaust.
- "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi A graphic memoir depicting the author's youth during the Iranian Revolution.

These memoir examples for highschool students are celebrated for their honesty, compelling narratives, and ability to engage young readers in meaningful discussions about culture, history, and personal growth.

Short Memoir Essays Suitable for Teen Readers

Short memoir essays are ideal for high school students seeking quick, impactful reads. These essays often focus on a single event or realization, making them accessible models for writing assignments. Teachers frequently use short memoirs to illustrate narrative techniques and encourage students to explore their own experiences in a focused way.

Examples of Short Memoir Essays

- "Fish Cheeks" by Amy Tan Describes the author's embarrassment during a traditional family dinner and her eventual appreciation of her cultural heritage.
- "Only Daughter" by Sandra Cisneros Explores the challenges and expectations faced as the only daughter in a Mexican-American family.
- "Shooting an Elephant" by George Orwell Recounts a pivotal moment in Orwell's life as a colonial police officer, reflecting on authority and conscience.

These short memoir examples for highschool students demonstrate how powerful storytelling can emerge from a single, well-explored moment.

Student-Written Memoir Examples

Student-written memoirs serve as relatable and inspiring models for high school writers. These examples often appear in school publications, writing contests, or classroom showcases. By reading memoirs crafted by peers, students recognize that their own voices and experiences are valuable and worthy of sharing.

Common Themes in Student Memoirs

- Moving to a new city or school
- Overcoming academic or personal challenges
- Forming and losing friendships
- Discovering a passion or talent
- Experiencing cultural or generational differences

Sample student memoirs often feature vivid descriptions, honest emotions, and a clear sense of growth or realization. These memoir examples for highschool students can motivate others to reflect on their own lives and experiment with personal narrative writing.

Key Elements of an Effective Memoir

Understanding what makes a memoir memorable is crucial for both readers and writers. Effective memoirs captivate audiences through their structure, voice, and authenticity. High school students analyzing memoir examples should pay close attention to these elements to improve their comprehension and writing abilities.

Essential Components

- **Personal Voice:** The narrator's unique personality and perspective shine through.
- Vivid Details: Specific descriptions and sensory imagery bring the story to life.

- **Emotional Honesty:** The writer shares genuine feelings, struggles, and triumphs.
- **Focused Theme:** The memoir centers on a particular idea, conflict, or transformation.
- **Reflection:** The author analyzes the meaning and impact of events.

By studying these characteristics in memoir examples for highschool students, aspiring writers can craft more engaging and meaningful personal narratives.

How to Write a Memoir: Practical Tips for High School Students

Writing a memoir can be an empowering exercise for high school students. By examining memoir examples and following proven strategies, students can effectively translate their memories and feelings into compelling stories. Below are actionable tips for crafting a successful memoir.

Steps to Writing a Memoir

- 1. **Choose a Focus:** Select a specific event, period, or theme from your life.
- 2. **Brainstorm Details:** List important memories, people, and settings related to your focus.
- 3. **Show, Don't Tell:** Use dialogue, sensory descriptions, and actions to convey experiences.
- 4. **Reflect:** Include your thoughts, emotions, and lessons learned from the experience.
- 5. **Edit and Revise:** Review your memoir for clarity, coherence, and vivid language.

High school students should read diverse memoir examples for inspiration and practice writing regularly to develop their unique voice and style.

Benefits of Reading and Writing Memoirs in High School

Engaging with memoir examples for highschool students offers numerous academic and personal benefits. These narratives foster empathy, sharpen critical thinking skills, and nurture a sense of self-awareness among teens. Incorporating memoirs into the high school curriculum encourages students to explore different cultures, historical events, and personal challenges.

Advantages for Students

- · Improved writing and storytelling abilities
- Greater empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives
- Enhanced critical reading and analysis skills
- Increased self-reflection and personal growth
- Preparation for college essays and personal statements

By studying and creating memoirs, high school students gain valuable tools for academic success and lifelong learning.

Frequently Asked Questions about Memoir Examples for High School Students

Q: What is a memoir, and how is it different from an autobiography?

A: A memoir is a personal account focusing on specific events, themes, or periods in the author's life, while an autobiography covers the author's entire life from birth to present. Memoirs emphasize personal reflection and storytelling.

Q: Why are memoir examples important for high school students?

A: Memoir examples for highschool students provide relatable models for writing, help develop empathy, and encourage self-exploration. They also improve reading comprehension and narrative skills.

Q: Can you recommend short memoirs for classroom reading?

A: Yes. "Fish Cheeks" by Amy Tan and "Only Daughter" by Sandra Cisneros are short memoir essays often used in high school classrooms for their accessibility and powerful themes.

Q: What should students focus on when writing their own

memoirs?

A: Students should focus on a specific experience, use vivid details, express honest emotions, and reflect on the meaning of the event in their memoir writing.

Q: Are there memoirs suitable for younger high school students?

A: Absolutely. Books like "I Am Malala" and "Persepolis" are accessible to younger high school readers and address themes relevant to teens.

Q: How do memoirs help develop writing skills?

A: Memoirs require students to organize thoughts, use descriptive language, and convey emotions, all of which enhance overall writing proficiency.

Q: What are common themes in student-written memoirs?

A: Common themes include adjusting to new environments, overcoming challenges, navigating relationships, and discovering identity or purpose.

Q: How can teachers use memoirs in the classroom?

A: Teachers can assign memoir readings, use them as writing prompts, facilitate discussions about themes, and encourage students to write their own memoirs.

Q: What makes a memoir engaging for high school readers?

A: Engaging memoirs feature authentic voice, relatable experiences, strong emotional resonance, and vivid storytelling.

Q: Are graphic memoirs appropriate for high school students?

A: Yes, graphic memoirs like "Persepolis" combine visuals and narrative to engage students and support diverse learning styles.

Memoir Examples For Highschool Students

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Memoir Examples for High School Students: Finding Your Story

Unlocking your personal narrative can be daunting, but writing a memoir offers a powerful opportunity for self-discovery and creative expression. This isn't just about recounting events; it's about crafting a compelling story that resonates with readers, exploring themes, and reflecting on personal growth. This post provides compelling memoir examples for high school students, showcasing diverse approaches and offering valuable insights into structure, style, and thematic development. We'll explore various memoir structures, highlight successful examples, and provide practical tips to help you begin your own captivating memoir.

Understanding the Memoir: More Than Just a Diary

Before diving into examples, let's clarify what makes a memoir unique. Unlike an autobiography, which aims for a comprehensive life story, a memoir focuses on a specific period, theme, or relationship. It's a deeply personal narrative, often exploring pivotal moments, challenges overcome, or significant relationships that shaped the author's identity. Think of it as a focused lens on a crucial part of your life.

Key Elements of a Strong High School Memoir:

A central theme: What's the underlying message or insight you want to convey? Is it about overcoming adversity, finding your voice, navigating friendships, or grappling with identity? Compelling narrative: Use vivid language and sensory details to bring your story to life. Show, don't tell.

Emotional depth: Don't shy away from vulnerability. Honest reflection makes your memoir resonate with readers.

Strong structure: Organize your thoughts chronologically, thematically, or through a combination of approaches.

Authentic voice: Let your personality shine through your writing. Be genuine and relatable.

Memoir Examples for High School Students: Diverse Approaches

Let's explore some hypothetical, yet relatable, memoir examples that high school students might write:

1. The Sports Memoir: "The Game That Changed Everything"

This memoir could focus on a pivotal sports moment - a winning shot, a crushing defeat, or a

significant injury. The narrative could explore not just the athletic achievement but the lessons learned about teamwork, perseverance, and self-belief. The central theme could be the resilience and growth fostered through overcoming a challenge.

2. The Friendship Memoir: "The Year We Found Ourselves"

This memoir could center on a significant friendship, exploring its evolution, challenges, and ultimate impact on the author's life. The narrative could focus on the complexities of friendship, betrayal, forgiveness, or the bittersweet nature of change and separation. The central theme might revolve around the lessons learned about loyalty, trust, and self-discovery through relationships.

3. The Family Memoir: "The Legacy of Grandma Rose"

This memoir could focus on a specific family member, exploring their influence on the author's life. The narrative might detail anecdotes, memories, and reflections on their personality, values, and impact. The central theme could revolve around legacy, family traditions, or the enduring impact of significant figures.

4. The Travel Memoir: "Summer in the City of Dreams"

This memoir could detail a significant travel experience, focusing on the cultural immersion, personal growth, or transformative moments. The narrative could delve into the challenges of adapting to a new environment, overcoming cultural barriers, or finding unexpected connections. The central theme might be self-discovery through exploration, cultural awareness, or the expanding horizons of travel.

5. The Personal Growth Memoir: "Finding My Voice"

This memoir could focus on a period of self-discovery, exploring the author's journey toward self-acceptance, overcoming personal struggles, or defining their identity. The narrative could detail the challenges faced, the lessons learned, and the ultimate triumph of self-acceptance. The central theme revolves around personal growth, resilience, and the journey towards self-understanding.

Structuring Your High School Memoir

Consider these structural approaches for your memoir:

Chronological: Telling the story in the order events unfolded.

Thematic: Organizing chapters around specific themes or ideas.

Flashbacks and Foreshadowing: Using these techniques to add depth and suspense.

Tips for Writing a Compelling Memoir

Start with a strong opening: Grab the reader's attention from the first sentence.

Use vivid language and sensory details: Paint a picture with your words.

Show, don't tell: Instead of saying "I was angry," describe your physical reactions and emotions.

Reflect on your experiences: Explore the significance of your story.

Edit and revise: Polish your writing until it shines.

Conclusion

Writing a memoir is a rewarding journey of self-discovery. By focusing on a specific theme or period, using vivid language, and reflecting on your experiences, you can craft a compelling and insightful story. The examples provided offer diverse starting points, encouraging you to explore your unique experiences and create a memoir that truly captures your voice and resonates with readers. Don't be afraid to delve into the depths of your personal narrative – your story is waiting to be told.

FAQs

- 1. Can my memoir be fictionalized? While based on personal experiences, elements can be altered for narrative purposes, but honesty and integrity remain crucial.
- 2. How long should my high school memoir be? There's no set length. Focus on crafting a complete and compelling narrative, even if it's shorter than expected.
- 3. What if I don't have a dramatic event to write about? Even everyday moments can hold profound meaning. Focus on the emotional impact and personal growth.
- 4. How can I overcome writer's block? Freewriting, brainstorming, and talking through your experiences with someone can help unlock your narrative.
- 5. Where can I get feedback on my memoir? Share it with trusted friends, family, teachers, or writing groups for constructive criticism.

memoir examples for highschool students: The Memoir Project Marion Roach Smith, 2011-06-09 An extraordinary practical resource for beginners looking to write their own memoir—now new and revised (Kirkus Reviews)! The greatest story you could write is one you've experienced yourself. Knowing where to start is the hardest part, but it just got a little easier with this essential guidebook for anyone wanting to write a memoir. Did you know that the #1 thing that baby boomers want to do in retirement is write a book—about themselves? It's not that every person has lived such a unique or dramatic life, but we inherently understand that writing a memoir—whether it's a book, blog, or just a letter to a child—is the single greatest path to self-examination. Through the use of disarmingly frank, but wildly fun tactics that offer you simple and effective guidelines that work, you can stop treading water in writing exercises or hiding behind writer's block. Previously self-published under the title, Writing What You Know: Raelia, this book has found an enthusiastic

audience that now writes with intent.

memoir examples for highschool students: <u>Culturally Responsive Teaching</u> Geneva Gay, 2010 The achievement of students of color continues to be disproportionately low at all levels of education. More than ever, Geneva Gay's foundational book on culturally responsive teaching is essential reading in addressing the needs of today's diverse student population. Combining insights from multicultural education theory and research with real-life classroom stories, Gay demonstrates that all students will perform better on multiple measures of achievement when teaching is filtered through their own cultural experiences. This bestselling text has been extensively revised to include expanded coverage of student ethnic groups: African and Latino Americans as well as Asian and Native Americans as well as new material on culturally diverse communication, addressing common myths about language diversity and the effects of English Plus instruction.

memoir examples for highschool students: It All Changed in an Instant Larry Smith, Rachel Fershleiser, 2010-01-05 "A perfect distraction and inspiration, and a collection that begs to be shared. Be warned, though. If you plan to lend out your copy, start out with two. Once it leaves your hands you'll never see it again." —Denver Post (on Not Quite What I Was Planning) The editors of the New York Times bestseller Not Quite What I Was Planning are back with its much-anticipated sequel, It All Changed in an Instant. With contributions from acclaimed authors like Malcolm Gladwell, Frank McCourt, Wally Lamb, Isabel Allende, Junot Diaz, Amy Tan, and James Frey, and celebrities like Sarah Silverman, Suze Orman, Marlee Matlin, Neil Patrick Harris, Ann Coulter, and Chelsea Handler, It All Changed in an Instant presents a thousand more glimpses of humanity. . . six words at a time. In the vein of the popular Post Secret books, It All Changed in an Instant, in the words of Vanity Fair, "will thrill minimalists and inspire maximalists."

memoir examples for highschool students: The Pedagogy of Confidence Yvette Jackson, 2011-04-14 In her new book, prominent professional developer Yvette Jackson focuses on students' strengths, rather than their weaknesses, To reinvigorate educators to inspire learning and high intellectual performance. Through the lens of educational psychology and historical reforms, Jackson responds To The faltering motivation and confidence of educators in terms of its effects on closing the achievement gap. The author seeks to rekindle the belief in the vast capacity of underachieving urban students, and offers strategies to help educators inspire intellectual performance. Jackson proposes that a paradigm shift towards a focus on strengths will reinvigorate educators' passion for teaching and belief in their ability to raise the intellectual achievement of their students. Jackson addresses how educators can systematically support the development of motivation, reflective and cognitive skills, and high performance when standards and assessments are predisposed to non-conceptual methods. Furthermore, she examines challenges and offers strategies for dealing with cultural disconnects, The influence of new technologies, and language preferences of students.

memoir examples for highschool students: <u>Candy and Me</u> Hilary Liftin, 2003 The author recounts the major events of her life as they were experienced through candy consumption, from her childhood friendships, which were marked by conversation hearts, to her mature relationships, which were celebrated with ice cream.

memoir examples for highschool students: They Said This Would Be Fun Eternity Martis, 2021-07-13 NATIONAL BESTSELLER Winner of the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Prize for Nonfiction Nominated for the Evergreen Award A powerful, moving memoir about what it's like to be a student of colour on a predominantly white campus. A booksmart kid from Toronto, Eternity Martis was excited to move away to Western University for her undergraduate degree. But as one of the few Black students there, she soon discovered that the campus experiences she'd seen in movies were far more complex in reality. Over the next four years, Eternity learned more about what someone like her brought out in other people than she did about herself. She was confronted by white students in blackface at parties, dealt with being the only person of colour in class and was tokenized by her romantic partners. She heard racial slurs in bars, on the street, and during lectures. And she gathered labels she never asked for: Abuse survivor. Token. Bad feminist. But, by graduation, she found an unshakeable sense of self--and a support network of other women of

colour. Using her award-winning reporting skills, Eternity connects her own experience to the systemic issues plaguing students today. It's a memoir of pain, but also resilience.

memoir examples for highschool students: They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky Benjamin Ajak, Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, Judy A. Bernstein, 2015-08-11 The inspiring story of three young Sudanese boys who were driven from their homes by civil war and began an epic odyssey of survival, facing life-threatening perils, ultimately finding their way to a new life in America. Between 1987 and 1989, Alepho, Benjamin, and Benson, like tens of thousands of young boys, took flight from the massacres of Sudan's civil war. They became known as the Lost Boys. With little more than the clothes on their backs, sometimes not even that, they streamed out over Sudan in search of refuge. Their journey led them first to Ethiopia and then, driven back into Sudan, toward Kenya. They walked nearly one thousand miles, sustained only by the sheer will to live. They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky is the three boys' account of that unimaginable journey. With the candor and the purity of their child's-eye-vision, Alephonsian, Benjamin, and Benson recall by turns: how they endured the hunger and strength-sapping illnesses-dysentery, malaria, and yellow fever; how they dodged the life-threatening predators-lions, snakes, crocodiles and soldiers alike-that dogged their footsteps; and how they grappled with a war that threatened continually to overwhelm them. Their story is a lyrical, captivating, timeless portrait of a childhood hurled into wartime and how they had the good fortune and belief in themselves to survive.

memoir examples for highschool students: Not Quite What I Was Planning Larry Smith, Rachel Fershleiser, 2009-10-13 Deceptively simple and surprisingly addictive, Not Quite What I Was Planning is a thousand glimpses of humanity—six words at a time. One Life. Six Words. What's Yours? When Hemingway famously wrote, For Sale: baby shoes, never worn, he proved that an entire story can be told using a half dozen words. When the online storytelling magazine SMITH asked readers to submit six-word memoirs, they proved a whole, real life can be told this way too. The results are fascinating, hilarious, shocking, and moving. From small sagas of bittersweet romance (Found true love, married someone else) to proud achievements and stinging regrets (After Harvard, had baby with crackhead), these terse true tales relate the diversity of human experience in tasty bite-sized pieces. From authors Jonathan Lethem and Richard Ford to comedians Stephen Colbert and Amy Sedaris, to ordinary folks around the world, everyone has a six-word story to tell.

memoir examples for highschool students: Brave Face Shaun David Hutchinson, 2020-06-16 "[P]rofound...a triumph—a full-throated howl to the moon to remind us why we choose to survive and thrive." —Brendan Kiely, New York Times bestselling author of Tradition "Razor-sharp, deeply revealing, and brutally honest...emotionally raw and deeply insightful."—Booklist (starred review) The critically acclaimed author of We Are the Ants opens up about what led to an attempted suicide in his teens, and his path back from the experience. "I wasn't depressed because I was gay. I was depressed and gay." Shaun David Hutchinson was nineteen. Confused. Struggling to find the vocabulary to understand and accept who he was and how he fit into a community in which he couldn't see himself. The voice of depression told him that he would never be loved or wanted, while powerful and hurtful messages from society told him that being gay meant love and happiness weren't for him. A million moments large and small over the years all came together to convince Shaun that he couldn't keep going, that he had no future. And so he followed through on trying to make that a reality. Thankfully Shaun survived, and over time, came to embrace how grateful he is and how to find self-acceptance. In this courageous and deeply honest memoir, Shaun takes readers through the journey of what brought him to the edge, and what has helped him truly believe that it does get better.

memoir examples for highschool students: Writing a Life Katherine Bomer, 2005 In Writing a Life, Katherine Bomer presents classroom-tested strategies for tapping memoir's power, including ways to help kids generate ideas to write about, elaborate on and make meaning from their memories, and learn craft from published memoirs.

memoir examples for highschool students: *My Unsentimental Education* Debra Monroe, 2015 Both the story of Monroe's steady rise into the professional class and a parallel history of

unsuitable exes, this memoir reminds us how accidental even a good life can be. Funny, poignant, wise, My Unsentimental Education explores the confusion that ensues when a working-class girl ends up far from where she began.

memoir examples for highschool students: Your Story Matters Leslie Leyland Fields, 2020-04-07 Your Story Matters presents a dynamic and spiritually formative process for understanding and redeeming the past in order to live well in the present and into the future. Leslie Leyland Fields has used and taught this practical and inspiring writing process for decades, helping people from all walks of life to access memory and sift through the truth of their stories. This is not just a book for writers. Each one of us has a story, and understanding God's work in our stories is a vital part of our faith. Through the spiritual practice of writing, we can remember his acts among us, declare his glory among the nations, and pass on to others what we have witnessed of God in this life: the mysterious, the tragic, the miraculous, the ordinary. With a companion video curriculum from RightNow Media, this is a why not book as opposed to a how to book. Leslie asks each of us an important question: Why not learn to tell your story, in the context of the grander story of God?

memoir examples for highschool students: The Truth about Stories Thomas King, 2003 Winner of the 2003 Trillium Book Award Stories are wondrous things, award-winning author and scholar Thomas King declares in his 2003 CBC Massey Lectures. And they are dangerous. Beginning with a traditional Native oral story, King weaves his way through literature and history, religion and politics, popular culture and social protest, gracefully elucidating North America's relationship with its Native peoples. Native culture has deep ties to storytelling, and yet no other North American culture has been the subject of more erroneous stories. The Indian of fact, as King says, bears little resemblance to the literary Indian, the dying Indian, the construct so powerfully and often destructively projected by White North America. With keen perception and wit, King illustrates that stories are the key to, and only hope for, human understanding. He compels us to listen well.

memoir examples for highschool students: Unbreak My Heart Toni Braxton, 2014-05-20 The bestselling solo R&B artist finally opens up about her rocky past and her path to redemption While Toni Braxton may appear to be living a charmed life, hers is in fact a tumultuous story: a tale of personal triumph after a public unraveling. In her heartfelt memoir, the six-time Grammy Award-winning singer and star of WE tv's hit reality series Braxton Family Values is unapologetically honest in revealing the intimate details of her journey. Toni and the entire Braxton clan have become America's favorite musical family, but what fans may not know is the intense guilt Toni once felt when she accepted a recording deal that excluded her sisters. That decision would haunt Toni for years to come, tainting the enormous fame she experienced as a popular female vocalist at the top of the charts. Despite her early accomplishments, Toni's world crumbled when she was forced to file for bankruptcy twice and was left all alone to pick up the pieces. Always the consummate professional, Toni rebuilt her life but then found herself in the midst of more heartache. The mother of an autistic child, Toni had long feared that her son's condition might be karmic retribution for some of the life choices that left her filled with remorse. Later, when heart ailments began plaguing her at the age of forty-one and she was diagnosed with lupus, Toni knew she had to move beyond the self-recrimination and take charge of her own healing—physically and spiritually. Unbreak My Heart is more than the story of Toni's difficult past and glittering success: it is a story of hope, of healing, and, ultimately, of redemption.

memoir examples for highschool students: Academic Vocabulary in Middle and High School Donna Ogle, Camille Blachowicz, Peter Fisher, Laura Lang, 2015-11-13 In order to succeed in school and beyond, students in grades 6-12 need to understand and use both academic language and discipline-specific vocabulary. This book describes effective practices for integrating vocabulary study with instruction in English language arts, history/social studies, and math and science, and for helping students become independent, motivated word learners. The expert authors present a wealth of specific teaching strategies, illustrated with classroom vignettes and student work samples. Connections to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are highlighted throughout; an extensive annotated list of print and electronic resources enhances the book's utility.

memoir examples for highschool students: The Reason You Walk Wab Kinew, 2015-09-29 A moving story of father-son reconciliation told by a charismatic aboriginal star When his father was given a diagnosis of terminal cancer, Winnipeg broadcaster and musician Wab Kinew decided to spend a year reconnecting with the accomplished but distant aboriginal man who'd raised him. The Reason You Walk spans that 2012 year, chronicling painful moments in the past and celebrating renewed hopes and dreams for the future. As Kinew revisits his own childhood in Winnipeg and on a reserve in Northern Ontario, he learns more about his father's traumatic childhood at residential school. An intriguing doubleness marks The Reason You Walk, itself a reference to an Anishinaabe ceremonial song. Born to an Anishinaabe father and a non-native mother, he has a foot in both cultures. He is a Sundancer, an academic, a former rapper, a hereditary chief and an urban activist. His father, Tobasonakwut, was both a beloved traditional chief and a respected elected leader who engaged directly with Ottawa. Internally divided, his father embraced both traditional native religion and Catholicism, the religion that was inculcated into him at the residential school where he was physically and sexually abused. In a grand gesture of reconciliation, Kinew's father invited the Roman Catholic bishop of Winnipeg to a Sundance ceremony in which he adopted him as his brother. Kinew writes affectingly of his own struggles in his twenties to find the right path, eventually giving up a self-destructive lifestyle to passionately pursue music and martial arts. From his unique vantage point, he offers an inside view of what it means to be an educated aboriginal living in a country that is just beginning to wake up to its aboriginal history and living presence. Invoking hope, healing and forgiveness, The Reason You Walk is a poignant story of a towering but damaged father and his son as they embark on a journey to repair their family bond. By turns lighthearted and solemn, Kinew gives us an inspiring vision for family and cross-cultural reconciliation, and for a wider conversation about the future of aboriginal peoples.

memoir examples for highschool students: Worth Writing About Jake Wizner, 2023-10-10 Who am I? This is the guestion that many adolescents ask during the turbulent middle and high school years. In Worth Writing About: Exploring Memoir with Adolescents, Jake Wizner addresses how searching for the answer to this question leads his students to reflection, to reading, and ultimately to deeper, more meaningful writing. Wizner, a 20-year teaching veteran, believes that a well-designed memoir unit not only aligns with the Common Core State Standards but also forges community in the classroom, encourages kids to read nonfiction, and works wonders with students who struggle with their writing's or with their lives. Worth Writing About addresses the most common challenges teachers face when teaching memoir writing: How do you help students who say that nothing interesting has happened in their lives? How do you help students balance what is meaningful with what is too personal to share? How do you help students overcome the I don't remember syndrome? Wizner delves into the craft of writing, from using mentor texts to crafting leads and memorable endings. He uses student models from his own classroom to show the deep, important work his students produce during the memoir unit. By writing about themselves and how they view the world around them, students discover more about themselves and how they want to move forward in the future.

memoir examples for highschool students: Hook Randall Horton, 2015 Literary Nonfiction. African & African American Studies. Latino/Latina Studies. Winner of the Great Lakes Colleges Association Discover Award for Creative Nonfiction. HOOK: A MEMOIR is a gripping story of transformation. Without excuse or indulgence, author and educator Randall Horton explores his downward spiral from unassuming Howard University undergraduate to homeless drug addict, international cocaine smuggler, and incarcerated felon--before showing us the redemptive role that writing and literature played in helping him reclaim his life. The multilayered narrative bridges past and present through both the vivid portrayal of Horton's singular experiences and his correspondence in letters with the anonymous Lxxxx, a Latina woman awaiting trial. HOOK explores race and social construction in America, the forgotten lives within the prison industrial complex, and the resilience of the human spirit.

memoir examples for highschool students: Teaching Literature to Adolescents Richard

Beach, Deborah Appleman, Bob Fecho, Rob Simon, 2020-12-28 Now in its fourth edition, this popular textbook introduces prospective and practicing English teachers to current methods of teaching literature in middle and high school classrooms. This new edition broadens its focus to cover important topics such as critical race theory; perspectives on teaching fiction, nonfiction, and drama; the integration of digital literacy; and teacher research for ongoing learning and professional development. It underscores the value of providing students with a range of different critical approaches and tools for interpreting texts. It also addresses the need to organize literature instruction around topics and issues of interest to today's adolescents. By using authentic dilemmas and contemporary issues, the authors encourage preservice English teachers and their instructors to raise and explore inquiry-based questions that center on the teaching of a variety of literary texts, both classic and contemporary, traditional and digital. New to the Fourth Edition: Expanded attention to digital tools, multimodal learning, and teaching online New examples of teaching contemporary texts Expanded discussion and illustration of formative assessment Revised response activities for incorporating young adult literature into the literature curriculum Real-world examples of student work to illustrate how students respond to the suggested strategies Extended focus on infusing multicultural and diverse literature in the classroom Each chapter is organized around specific questions that preservice teachers consistently raise as they prepare to become English language arts teachers. The authors model critical inquiry throughout the text by offering authentic case narratives that raise important considerations of both theory and practice. A companion website, a favorite of English education instructors, http://teachingliterature.pbworks.com, provides resources and enrichment activities, inviting teachers to consider important issues in the context of their current or future classrooms.

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memoir examples for highschool students: The Distance Between Us Reyna Grande, 2012-08-28 In this inspirational and unflinchingly honest memoir, acclaimed author Reyna Grande describes her childhood torn between the United States and Mexico, and shines a light on the experiences, fears, and hopes of those who choose to make the harrowing journey across the border. Reyna Grande vividly brings to life her tumultuous early years in this "compelling...unvarnished, resonant" (BookPage) story of a childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries. As her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to "El Otro Lado" (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced into the already overburdened household of their stern grandmother. When their mother at last returns, Reyna prepares for her own journey to "El Otro Lado" to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years, her long-absent father. Funny, heartbreaking, and lyrical, The Distance Between Us poignantly captures the confusion and contradictions of childhood, reminding us that the joys and sorrows we experience are imprinted on the heart forever, calling out to us of those places we first called home. Also available in Spanish as La distancia entre nosotros.

memoir examples for highschool students: Young Adult Literature in the Composition Classroom Tamara Girardi, Abigail G. Scheg, 2018-08-15 Young adult literature holds an exceptional place in modern American popular culture. Accessible to readers of all levels, it captures a diverse audience and tends to adapt to the big screen in an exciting way. With its wide readership,

YAL sparks interesting discussions inside and outside of the classroom. This collection of new essays examines how YAL has impacted college composition courses, primarily focusing on the first year. Contributors discuss popular YA stories, their educational potential, and possibilities for classroom discussion and exercise.

memoir examples for highschool students: The Midnight Library Matt Haig, 2021-01-27 Good morning America book club--Jacket.

memoir examples for highschool students: Memoirs of an Elf Devin Scillian, 2014-09-01 It's Christmas Eve and Spark Elf has the very important job of keeping Santa Claus on schedule as he travels the globe in 24 hours delivering presents. Small in stature with pointy ears and stopwatch in hand, Spark lets Santa know it's time to go. He programs the GPS while the other elves secure the toy bag and check the Nice list. Little known fact: We don't even bring the Naughty list with us. Six hours into the trip Santa, sleigh and crew begin to fall behind--so many cuddly doggies to pet and extra cookies to eat. The jolly group makes up time in Brazil and soon find themselves back at the North Pole. Their work is done. But wait, there's something left in the bag--but it isn't a present at all--it's a family dog! Well known fact: Santa gives things away. He does not take things! Momma Claus comes to the rescue with a plan to get the dog back to his family. Can Santa return the family's beloved pooch in time to keep their Christmas merry?

memoir examples for highschool students: *If He Had Been with Me* Laura Nowlin, 2013-04-02 If he had been with me everything would have been different... I wasn't with Finn on that August night. But I should've been. It was raining, of course. And he and Sylvie were arguing as he drove down the slick road. No one ever says what they were arguing about. Other people think it's not important. They do not know there is another story. The story that lurks between the facts. What they do not know—the cause of the argument—is crucial. So let me tell you...

memoir examples for highschool students: 20 Ideas for Teaching Gifted Kids in the Middle School and High School Joel E. McIntosh, 2023-04-21 Imagine taking your gifted and talented students to a mysterious old graveyard in town and teaching them to conduct history research using the information they gather, teaching gifted children the concepts behind great literature using modern science fiction, allowing your students to conduct independent research in their mathematics classroom, or encouraging your students to plan and participate in exotic travel around the world—without ever leaving your classroom. In this book, you will receive the best ideas and lessons for teachers of secondary gifted kids developed by master teachers across the nation. This exciting book features ideas for starting a mentorship program, teaching history using scientific surveys, using simulations to teach content, organizing historical debates, producing documentaries, and much more. 20 Ideas features exciting activities and lessons such as: Be a Capitalist in Jolly Old England (an exciting activity for the world history classroom), Creative Thinking Skills in Mathematics (producing innovative ways to solve problems), Creating Simulations for the History Classroom (tips for using simulations with gifted students), Another Fine Mess . . . (building creative problem-solving activities that help teach subject area content), and many more creative ideas and lessons. Bring some of the most innovative and inspirational lessons being offered today into your classroom with 20 Ideas. Grades 5-12

memoir examples for highschool students: Memoir G. Thomas Couser, 2011-12-02 Each year brings a batch of new memoirs, ranging from works by former teachers and celebrity has-beens to disillusioned soldiers and bestselling novelists. In addition to becoming bestsellers in their own right, memoirs have become a popular object of inquiry in the academy and a mainstay in most MFA workshops. Courses in what is now called life writing study memoir alongside personal essays, diaries, and autobiographies. Memoir: An Introduction proffers a succinct and comprehensive survey of the genre (and its many subgenres) while taking readers through the various techniques, themes, and debates that have come to characterize the ubiquitous literary form. Its fictional origins are traced to eighteenth-century British novels; its early American roots are examined in Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography and colonial captivity narratives; and its ethical conundrums are considered via the imbroglios brought on by the questionable claims in Rigoberta Menchú's I,

Rigoberta, and more notoriously, James Frey's A Million Little Pieces. Alongside these more traditional literary forms, Couser expands the discussion of memoir to include film with what he calls documemoir (exemplified in Nathaniel Kahn's My Architect) and graphic narratives like Art Spiegelman's Maus.

memoir examples for highschool students: A Very Punchable Face Colin Jost, 2020-07-14 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In these hilarious essays, the Saturday Night Live head writer and Weekend Update co-anchor learns how to take a beating. "I always wanted to punch his face before I read this book. Now I just want to kick him in the balls."—Larry David NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Cosmopolitan • Vulture • Parade If there's one trait that makes someone well suited to comedy, it's being able to take a punch—metaphorically and, occasionally, physically. From growing up in a family of firefighters on Staten Island to commuting three hours a day to high school and "seeing the sights" (like watching a Russian woman throw a stroller off the back of a ferry), to attending Harvard while Facebook was created, Jost shares how he has navigated the world like a slightly smarter Forrest Gump. You'll also discover things about Jost that will surprise and confuse you, like how Jimmy Buffett saved his life, how Czech teenagers attacked him with potato salad, how an insect laid eggs inside his legs, and how he competed in a twenty-five-man match at WrestleMania (and almost won). You'll go behind the scenes at SNL and Weekend Update (where he's written some of the most memorable sketches and jokes of the past fifteen years). And you'll experience the life of a touring stand-up comedian—from performing in rural college cafeterias at noon to opening for Dave Chappelle at Radio City Music Hall. For every accomplishment (hosting the Emmys), there is a setback (hosting the Emmys). And for every absurd moment (watching paramedics give CPR to a raccoon), there is an honest, emotional one (recounting his mother's experience on the scene of the Twin Towers' collapse on 9/11). Told with a healthy dose of self-deprecation, A Very Punchable Face reveals the brilliant mind behind some of the dumbest sketches on television, and lays bare the heart and humor of a hardworking guy—with a face you can't help but want to punch.

memoir examples for highschool students: Let's Pretend This Never Happened Jenny Lawson, 2012-04-17 The #1 New York Times bestselling (mostly true) memoir from the hilarious author of Furiously Happy. "Gaspingly funny and wonderfully inappropriate."—O, The Oprah Magazine When Jenny Lawson was little, all she ever wanted was to fit in. That dream was cut short by her fantastically unbalanced father and a morbidly eccentric childhood. It did, however, open up an opportunity for Lawson to find the humor in the strange shame-spiral that is her life, and we are all the better for it. In the irreverent Let's Pretend This Never Happened, Lawson's long-suffering husband and sweet daughter help her uncover the surprising discovery that the most terribly human moments—the ones we want to pretend never happened—are the very same moments that make us the people we are today. For every intellectual misfit who thought they were the only ones to think the things that Lawson dares to say out loud, this is a poignant and hysterical look at the dark, disturbing, yet wonderful moments of our lives. Readers Guide Inside

memoir examples for highschool students: A Sea of Troubles Elizabeth James, B.H. James, 2021-04-19 Sea of Troubles has been designed for classroom teachers struggling to address the overwhelming issues facing our world today. By embracing the Common Core's emphasis on the inclusion of more nonfiction, informational texts, the authors have demonstrated how to incorporate meaningful informational texts into their favorite units of literature. Sea of Troubles shows teachers how literature and informational texts can work together, to enhance each other, and, by extension, enhance student's abilities to critically think and respond to the sea of troubles that pervades society.

memoir examples for highschool students: <u>This Is Where It Ends</u> Marieke Nijkamp, 2016-01-05 The reviews are in! This Is Where It Ends, the #1 New York Times bestseller and one of the Best Books of the Decade (Buzzfeed, Paste Magazine, BookRiot), could break you. I am speechless. The saddest book I have ever read. Literally tore my heart out. Go inside a heartbreaking fictional school shooting, minute-by-terrifying-minute. Everyone has a reason to fear the boy with the

gun... 10:00 a.m.: The principal of Opportunity, Alabama's high school finishes her speech, welcoming the entire student body to a new semester and encouraging them to excel and achieve. 10:02 a.m.: The students get up to leave the auditorium for their next class. 10:03 a.m.: The auditorium doors won't open. 10:05 a.m.: Someone starts shooting. Over the course of 54 minutes, four students must confront their greatest hopes, and darkest fears, as they come face-to-face with the boy with the gun. In a world where violence in schools is at an all-time high and school shootings are a horrifyingly common reality for teenagers, This Is Where It Ends is a rallying cry to end the gun violence epidemic for good. Praise for This Is Where It Ends: A Buzzfeed Best Young Adult Book of the Decade A Paste Magazine Best Teen Book of the Decade A Book Riot Biggest YA Book of the Decade A Professional Book Nerds Best Book of the Decade A Bustle.com Most-Anticipated YA Novel A Goodreads YA Best Books Pick A Goodreads Choice Award Finalist for Young Adult Fiction Kids Indie Next List Pick Marieke Nijkamp's brutal, powerful fictional account of a school shooting is important in its timeliness. —Bustle.com A gritty, emotional, and suspenseful read and although fictionalized, it reflects on a problematic and harrowing issue across the nation. —Buzzfeed A compelling, brutal story of an unfortunately all-too familiar situation: a school shooting. Nijkamp portrays the events thoughtfully, recounting fifty-four intense minutes of bravery, love, and loss. -BookRiot

memoir examples for highschool students: From the Ashes Jesse Thistle, 2019-08-06 *#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER *Winner, Kobo Emerging Writer Prize Nonfiction *Winner, Indigenous Voices Awards *Winner, High Plains Book Awards *Finalist, CBC Canada Reads *A Globe and Mail Book of the Year *An Indigo Book of the Year *A CBC Best Canadian Nonfiction Book of the Year In this extraordinary and inspiring debut memoir, Jesse Thistle, once a high school dropout and now a rising Indigenous scholar, chronicles his life on the streets and how he overcame trauma and addiction to discover the truth about who he is. If I can just make it to the next minute...then I might have a chance to live; I might have a chance to be something more than just a struggling crackhead. From the Ashes is a remarkable memoir about hope and resilience, and a revelatory look into the life of a Métis-Cree man who refused to give up. Abandoned by his parents as a toddler, Jesse Thistle briefly found himself in the foster-care system with his two brothers, cut off from all they had known. Eventually the children landed in the home of their paternal grandparents, whose tough-love attitudes quickly resulted in conflicts. Throughout it all, the ghost of Jesse's drug-addicted father haunted the halls of the house and the memories of every family member. Struggling with all that had happened, Jesse succumbed to a self-destructive cycle of drug and alcohol addiction and petty crime, spending more than a decade on and off the streets, often homeless. Finally, he realized he would die unless he turned his life around. In this heartwarming and heart-wrenching memoir, Jesse Thistle writes honestly and fearlessly about his painful past, the abuse he endured, and how he uncovered the truth about his parents. Through sheer perseverance and education—and newfound love—he found his way back into the circle of his Indigenous culture and family. An eloquent exploration of the impact of prejudice and racism, From the Ashes is, in the end, about how love and support can help us find happiness despite the odds.

memoir examples for highschool students: In God We Trust Jean Shepherd, 2010-10-27 A collection of humorous and nostalgic Americana stories—the beloved, bestselling classics that inspired the movie A Christmas Story Before Garrison Keillor and Spalding Gray there was Jean Shepherd: a master monologist and writer who spun the materials of his all-American childhood into immensely resonant—and utterly hilarious—works of comic art. In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash represents one of the peaks of his achievement, a compound of irony, affection, and perfect detail that speaks across generations. In God We Trust, Shepherd's wildly witty reunion with his Indiana hometown, disproves the adage "You can never go back." Bending the ear of Flick, his childhood-buddy-turned-bartender, Shepherd recalls passionately his genuine Red Ryder BB gun, confesses adolescent failure in the arms of Junie Jo Prewitt, and relives a story of man against fish that not even Hemingway could rival. From pop art to the World's Fair, Shepherd's subjects speak with a universal irony and are deeply and unabashedly grounded in American Midwestern life,

together rendering a wonderfully nostalgic impression of a more innocent era when life was good, fun was clean, and station wagons roamed the earth. A comic genius who bridged the gap between James Thurber and David Sedaris, Shepherd may have accomplished for Holden, Indiana, what Mark Twain did for Hannibal, Missouri.

memoir examples for highschool students: Pregnant Girl Nicole Lynn Lewis, 2021-05-04 A NPR BOOKS WE LOVE 2021 Selection "[T]his book is so much more than a memoir Her prose has the power to undo deep-set cultural biases about poverty and parenthood."—New York Times Book Review An activist calls for better support of young families so they can thrive and reflects on her experiences as a Black mother and college student fighting for opportunities for herself and her child. Pregnant Girl presents the possibility of a different future for young mothers—one of success and stability—in the midst of the dismal statistics that dominate the national conversation. Along with her own story as a young Black mother, Nicole Lynn Lewis weaves in those of the men and women she's worked with to share a new perspective on how poverty, classism, and systemic racism impact teen pregnancy and on how effective programs and equitable policies can help teen parents earn college degrees, have increased opportunity, and create a legacy of educational and career achievements in their families. After Nicole became pregnant during her senior year in high school, she was told that college was no longer a reality—a negative outlook often unfairly presented to teen mothers. Nicole left home and experienced periods of homelessness, hunger, and poverty. Despite these obstacles, she enrolled at the College of William & Mary and brought her 3-month-old daughter along. Through her experiences fighting for resources to put herself through college, she discovered her true calling and founded her organization, Generation Hope, to provide support for teen parents and their children so they can thrive in college and kindergarten—driving a 2-generation solution to poverty. Pregnant Girl will inspire young parents faced with similar choices and obstacles that they too can pursue their goals with the right support.

memoir examples for highschool students: I, Justine Justine Ezarik, 2015-06-02 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A one-woman media phenomenon and a leading YouTube influencer takes readers behind the camera, and deep inside her world. Justine Ezarik has been tech-obsessed since unboxing her family's first Apple computer. By sixth grade she had built her first website. A decade later, she became one of the Internet's first—and most popular—"lifecasters," inviting people around the world to watch her every move, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. But it was a one-minute video about an itemized AT&T bill that gave Justine her first taste of viral success: Within ten days of release, her "300-page iPhone bill" had garnered more than 3 million views and international media attention. These days, iJustine is a one-woman new media phenomenon: The popular techie, gamer, vlogger, and digital influencer has an army of nearly 3.5 million subscribers across multiple YouTube channels, with total views approaching half a billion. Now, Justine is giving friends and fans a look behind the scenes, sharing never-before-told stories about the hilarious (and sometimes heartbreaking) reality of sharing your life online. With her trademark wit and delightfully weird sense of humor, Justine delivers an inspirational message in support of creativity, entrepreneurship, and the power of staying true to yourself, while reminding readers that the Internet is a very small world—you just never know who you're going to meet.

memoir examples for highschool students: The Best Advice in Six Words Larry Smith, 2015-11-03 The creator of the bestselling, short-form Six-Word Memoir series, Larry Smith, is back again with THE BEST ADVICE IN SIX WORDS, a poignant collection of universal wisdom, life lessons, and caution thrown to the wind. With 1,000 contributions from celebrities like Molly Ringwald, Whoopi Goldberg, Lemony Snicket, and Gary Shteyngart, as well as everyday people who've learned a thing or two about a thing or two during their time on the planet, readers will pulled into the sometimes hilarious, often serious, occasionally reflective experience of the book. Don't miss these amazing tips: "Never, ever refuse a breath mint." -Lemony Snicket "You learn more from your failures." -Piper Kerman "Does it need to be said?" -Julianne Moore "Be a doer, not a dreamer" -Shonda Rimes "Sometimes on low, sometimes on high." - Mario Batali Can't say something nice? Try fiction. - David Baldacci

memoir examples for highschool students: <u>Outstanding Books for the College Bound</u> Angela Carstensen, 2011-05-27 More than simply a vital collection development tool, this book can help librarians help young adults grow into the kind of independent readers and thinkers who will flourish at college.

memoir examples for highschool students: The Tell-Tale Heart Edgar Allan Poe, 2024-01-29 In Edgar Allan Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart, the narrator tries to prove his sanity after murdering an elderly man because of his vulture eye. His growing guilt leads him to hear the old man's heart beating under the floorboards, which drives him to confess the crime to the police.

memoir examples for highschool students: The Bad Seed Jory John, 2018-05-08 A New York Times bestseller! This is a book about a bad seed. A baaaaaaaaad seed. How bad? Do you really want to know? He has a bad temper, bad manners, and a bad attitude. He's been bad since he can remember! This seed cuts in line every time, stares at everybody and never listens. But what happens when one mischievous little seed changes his mind about himself, and decides that he wants to be—happy? With Jory John's charming and endearing text and bold expressive illustrations by Pete Oswald, here is The Bad Seed: a funny yet touching tale that reminds us of the remarkably transformative power of will, acceptance, and just being you. Perfect for readers young and old, The Bad Seed proves that positive change is possible for each and every one of us. Check out Jory John and Pete Oswald's funny, bestselling books for kids 4-8 and anyone who wants a laugh: The Bad Seed The Good Egg The Cool Bean The Couch Potato The Good Egg Presents: The Great Eggscape! The Bad Seed Presents: The Good, the Bad, the Spooky! The Cool Bean Presents: As Cool as It Gets That's What Dinosaurs Do

memoir examples for highschool students: Teaching, Affirming, and Recognizing Trans and Gender Creative Youth sj Miller, 2016-06-21 Winner of the 2018 Outstanding Book by the Michigan Council Teachers of English Choice magazine as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2018 Winner of the 2017 AERA Division K (Teaching and Teacher Education) Exemplary Research Award This book draws upon a queer literacy framework to map out examples for teaching literacy across pre-K-12 schooling. To date, there are no comprehensive Pre-K-12 texts for literacy teacher educators and theorists to use to show successful models of how practicing classroom teachers affirm differential (a)gender bodied realities across curriculum and schooling practices. This book aims to highlight how these enactments can be made readily conscious to teachers as a reminder that gender normativity has established violent and unstable social and educational climates for the millennial generation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, (a)gender/(a)sexual, gender creative, and questioning youth.

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