

## **Suggested Readings: Books, Anthologies**

### ***Creative Nonfiction/Memoir/Essays***

#### ***For the craft of writing essays/creative nonfiction/literary nonfiction:***

1. **Tell It Slant [Writing and shaping creative nonfiction]**

**Ed. Brenda Miller & Suzanne Paola**

2. **Writing the Sacred Journey: The Art and Practice of Spiritual Memoir**  
**Elizabeth J. Andrew**

3. **I Could Tell You Stories:**  
**Patricia Hampl (American memoirist)**

4. **Tell Me True: Memoir, History, and Writing a Life**  
**Ed. Patricia Hampl & Elaine Tyler May**  
**Resource: [www.patriciahampl.com/tell-me-true-me](http://www.patriciahampl.com/tell-me-true-me)**

5. **The Art of Memoir:**  
**Mary Karr**

6. **Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott.**

7. **Additional resource:**  
**The Naked Truth: how to write a memoir (published article)**  
**<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/dec/14/the-naked-truth-how-to-write-a-memoir>**

**Essays (To be covered in class):**

**Woolf, Virginia, 'The Death of the Moth'**

[First published in Woolf's 'The Death of the Moth & Other Essays' (1942)]

[http://reedforenglish.weebly.com/uploads/9/8/1/2/981294/death\\_of\\_a\\_moth.pdf](http://reedforenglish.weebly.com/uploads/9/8/1/2/981294/death_of_a_moth.pdf)

\*'The Death of the Moth & Other Essays'

The collection available here:

<https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks12/1203811h.html>

Walker, Alice, 'Beauty: When the Other Dancer Is the Self'

<https://www.oleanschools.org/cms/lib/NY19000263/Centricity/Domain/166/Beauty.pdf>

Ann Beard, Joe, 'Fourth State of Matter'

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1996/06/24/the-fourth-state-of-matter>

***Other modernist authors and their essays (reference):***

Didion, Joan, 'Goodbye to All That' (From her collection 'Slouching Towards Bethlehem')

<http://essaysspring13.qwriting.qc.cuny.edu/files/2013/04/Joan-Didion-Goodbye-to-All-That.pdf>

Atwood, Margaret, 'Nine Beginnings'

<https://kentcomp0100.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/atwood-nine-beginnings.pdf>

Baldwin, James, 'Notes of a Native Son' (important milestone in Back Studies/Minority Studies)

<http://www2.csudh.edu/ccauthen/570f15/baldwin.pdf>

Mukherjee, Bharati, 'A Four-Hundred-Year-Old-Woman' (Mukherjee, referred to as **Postcolonial-Postmodern/Anglo-Indian/Indo-Anglian/Indo-American/American/Bengali-Indian**, **this narrative is an immigrant woman's inward and outward journey**)

Ref: <http://thistosay.blogspot.com/2005/02/four-hundred-year-old-woman-by-bharati.html>

['Tell it Slant' anthology, page 369, 2004 edition of the book]

Lamott, Ann, 'Why I don't Meditate' (example of a modern familiar essay)

<https://www.salon.com/1997/03/13/lamott970313/>

Dillard, Annie, 'Total Eclipse' (another fine example of a modern familiar essay)

First published in her famous collection of essays 'Teaching a Stone to Talk'\*

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/08/annie-dillards-total-eclipse/536148/>

Simic, Charles, 'Three Fragments' (example of a short, layered essay) ['Tell it Slant' anthology, page 403, 2004 edition of the book]

Ref. <https://leemartinauthor.com/2017/01/23/dont-give-straight-non-linear-approach-memoir/>

Cooper, Bernard, 'The Fine Art of Sighing'

<https://www.theparisreview.org/letters-essays/1629/the-fine-art-of-sighing-bernard-cooper>

**Books:**

*Notes From a Native Son,*  
*Nobody Knows My Name, James Baldwin*

*I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings,*  
*Letter to My Daughter,*  
*Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now,*  
*Mom & Me & Mom, Maya Angelou*

*The Boys of My Youth, Joe Ann Beard*

*The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion*

*Night, Elie Weisel*

*An American Childhood,*  
*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek,*  
*Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters, Annie Dillard*

*Me Talk Pretty One Day, David Sedaris*

*Dog Years: A Memoir,*  
*Heaven's Coast, A Memoir, Mark Doty*

**More resources of contemporary works of  
memoir/autobiography:**

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/best-memoirs-autobiographies-biographies.html>

<https://reedsy.com/discovery/blog/memoirs>

