**Characteristics of a Memoir**

1. Tells a personal story based on the truth (with some inevitable embellishments). Told in the first person point of view.
2. Focuses on a significant event or time period in a person’s life (and they learned something or changed as a result).
3. Can start with a “lead-in” ie. The film starts in the present day and the narrator makes it clear that he or she is describing something from the past and the audience is “invited in” to the memory.
4. Setting is very important (very descriptive in writing, a lot of visual/auditory detail in films)
5. Paced slowly enough so that the audience can experience a lot of the detail.
6. Memoir usually focuses on relationships with people, places, animals, or a thing.

In a group of 3, read your memoir excerpt(s) and fill in the chart. For each example, check off whether or not it conforms with the characteristic and provide a detail to help you remember.

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| **Memoir Title** | **1**  **Personal story based on truth**  **Whose story?** | **2**  **Significant event**  **What was it?** | **3**  **Lead in** | **4**  **Setting**  **What is it?** | **5**  **Detailed**  **How?** | **6**  **Relationships**  **With who/what?** |
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