# This Boy’s Life - Mini Research/Viewing Report

**Task:** Apply Memoir elements in a report about *This Boy’s Life*

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Format:** 1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font

Audience: Your teacher, fellow film-viewers

**Evaluation:** This is worth 5% of your overall mark (at the end of the course) but will be worth much more at the midterm. It is also Formative, meaning that you can keep re-writing it until you achieve the mark that you want.



The report **must** contain the following sections:

* **Introduction**: contains statement of purpose (what you are intending to prove through your evidence), a brief summary of the film, including important background information about the author, director, main actors, etc.
* **Three aspects of memoir** (from your notes) as applied to THIS memoir. They must each have their own headings. Under each heading, such as **Setting** you should have two specific and different examples from the film. Each section should conclude with an explanation that tells the reader how these examples help achieve the memoir effect. If you want to achieve a level 4, you must do an additional 2 characteristics of memoir.
* **Conclusion:** summarize the findings from each one of your Aspects of Memoir sections. Ultimately, you should prove that *This Boy’s Life* follows the conventions of the memoir genre.

Sample Report Format:

DATE: Sept 15, 2012

TO: Your teacher’s name

FROM: Your name

SUBJECT: This Boy’s Life as Memoir

**SUMMARY OF FILM**

**MEMOIR ELEMENT #1: (Use the actual term for the heading)**

**MEMOIR ELEMENT #2: (Use the actual term for the heading)**

**Memoir Element #3: (Use the actual term for the heading)**

**CONCLUSION**

## Mini Memoir Viewing Report Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ /40

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|  | **Level 4** | **Level 3** | **Level 2** | **Level 1** | **Below Level** |
| Organization  (5) | Completely follows the report format as outlined.  Very neatly and professionally presented with headings and good use of space. | Usually follows the report format as outlined.  Neat and/or professional presentation (includes some headings and use of space). | Sometimes  follows the report format as outlined.  Somewhat neat presentation. | Mostly does not follows the report format as outlined.  Messy and/or sloppy presentation. | Does not even look like a report as outlined.  Very poor presentation; often illegible. |
| Content  (25) | Contains excellent & insightful references to the film  Has applied criteria of memoir in a particularly insightful and creative way. | Contains strong references to the film  Has applied criteria of memoir in a thorough way. | Contains some good references to the film  Has applied some criteria of memoir to create a discussion. | References to the film and are insufficient. Missing any explanations.  Few to no applications of criteria of memoir. | References to the film are insufficient and/or absent. Missing any explanations.  No mention of memoir at all |
| Mechanics  (10) | Has few, if any, mechanical and usage errors in final product; demonstrates excellent control of sentence and paragraph structure. | Has minor mechanical and usage errors which do not interfere with communication; has good control of sentence and paragraph structure. | Has mechanical and usage errors which may interfere with communication; relies on simple sentence structure; limited control of paragraph structure. | Has major and minor mechanical and usage errors which interfere with communication; limited control of sentence structure, no paragraphing evident. | Has many major and minor mechanical and usage errors which often interfere with communication; little to no control of sentence structure, no paragraphing evident. |

***Outline***

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| Summary (describe what the movie is about **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**)  Setting:  Main characters:  Plot (include the ending)  Big Ideas or Message of the Memoir: |

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| Memoir Characteristic #1 (with explanation of what it is) **ALL ONE PARAGRAPH**  First example in film (describe with detail):  Second example in film (describe with detail):  Explain how these two examples demonstrate the memoir characteristic and how this characteristic helps the viewer identify with the narrator’s experience: |

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| Memoir Characteristic #2 (with explanation of what it is) **ALL ONE PARAGRAPH**  First example in film (describe with detail):  Second example in film (describe with detail):  Explain how these two examples demonstrate the memoir characteristic and how this characteristic helps the viewer identify with the narrator’s experience: |

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| Memoir Characteristic #3 (with explanation of what it is) **ALL ONE PARAGRAPH**  First example in film (describe with detail):  Second example in film (describe with detail):  Explain how these two examples demonstrate the memoir characteristic and how this characteristic helps the viewer identify with the narrator’s experience: |

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| Memoir Characteristic #4 (with explanation of what it is) *necessary for Level 4*  First example in film (describe with detail):  Second example in film (describe with detail):  Explain how these two examples demonstrate the memoir characteristic and how this characteristic helps the viewer identify with the narrator’s experience: |

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| Memoir Characteristic #5 (with explanation of what it is) *necessary for Level 4*  First example in film (describe with detail):  Second example in film (describe with detail):  Explain how these two examples demonstrate the memoir characteristic and how this characteristic helps the viewer identify with the narrator’s experience: |

**Conclusion:**

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| Summarize the memoir techniques discussed in this report:    Comment on who would most benefit from viewing this memoir  (ie. Why is it worthwhile?):  How does this memoir express the Big Idea that you identified in the first section? |

***Exemplar***

DATE: Sept 15, 2012

TO: Ms Klosch

FROM: Sample Student

SUBJECT: Angela’s Ashes as Memoir

**Summary of the Film:**

The film, *Angela’s Ashes* is the film adaptation of the memoir of the same name, written by Frank McCourt. It tells the story of Frank’s difficult childhood as it takes place during the Depression Era in Limerick, Ireland. The characters include his victimized and helpless mother Angela (after whom the memoir is titled), his alcoholic and charismatic father, Malachy, his younger siblings, and a host of dysfunctional and abusive supporting characters. The main ideas of the memoir include the corruption of the Irish Catholic Church, living in poverty, family loyalty, and alcoholism.

**Setting**

Setting refers to the time period and the location of a story. In *Angela’s Ashes* both are extremely important. The story occurs during the Great Depression of the 1930’s. What this does is reinforce the poverty that exists not only in Frank’s family, but in the community around them. For example, one Christmas, the family is without enough food, as usual. The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides needy families with a food voucher that can be redeemed at the local butcher. However, rather than getting the traditional goose or turkey, the voucher entitles them to a free sheep head which has to be carried home. Frank is extremely embarrassed because it puts their poverty on display to the entire neighbourhood, especially since they don’t have a bag or anything in which to transport the skinned head so everyone can see its eyeballs glaring at them. Also, the physical place is important to the memoir. The story takes place in Limerick, Ireland where it seems to rain miserably most of the time. Also, the film spends a lot of time showing the squalid housing in which the family lives. For example, the family of six moves into a row house which is located right beside the communal outhouse. During the rainy winter season, the entire first floor floods with water in which feces and dead rats are floating. The family has to take up residence in the upstairs room but they can’t escape the stench and the mold. Both the time period and the location of the film reinforce in a very visual way how terrible Frank’s childhood was.