



How to Write Your Life Story

Ralph Fletcher , Ian Nagy (Illustrator)

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Lies About Writing Your Life Story You have to be a famous celebrity. You must have an amazing life. You can't write your life story until you're old and gray. Nobody will read it, so what's the point?

How to Write Your Life Story Details

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Author : Ralph Fletcher , Ian Nagy (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review How to Write Your Life Story for online ebook

Heather says

I bought this book as a resource for my students over a year ago and then misplaced it almost immediately. I finally found it today and was hesitant to read it because I am not really a fan of Fletcher's other instructional writing books for children. However, I must say that this one is by far the best. It has tips, interviews with authors, and writing samples from kids and adults. It is definitely geared more towards middle grades (4-6).

Tyler says

I felt that this book was very helpful in allowing me to write my memoir.

Jack O'Shaughnessy says

This book was pretty educational and I hope that the things I learned from the book will help me when writing my memoir. The most important thing I learned was even if it's embarrassing for another person you can still include it.

Natalie Gardner says

I think it was very useful in my writing. it wasn't really my type of a book. i don't like reading how to write stuff. when i write a memorial i will follow my heart and try to remember as much as i can.

The Reading Countess says

Publisher's Summary:

Lies About Writing Your Life Story

You have to be a famous celebrity.

You must have an amazing life.

You can't write your life story until you're old and gray.

Nobody will read it, so what's the point?

I love Ralph Fletcher. When I ordered this book through Scholastic Book Orders, I thought my kids might find his book interesting and perhaps provide a call to them to write pieces of their own lives down. I wasn't prepared for practical tips for classroom teachers to share with their students. I also wasn't prepared for new

sources of memoirs (listed in the back, there is a wonderful compilation of poetry, short stories, and early and older chapter books). This is a great resource for teachers looking for mentor texts for both reading and writing.

Favorite Passages:

"Squished" vignette on pages 54-55 about a teacher/writer's vivid recollection (talk about "explode the moment") of how she literally squished a toad to death, and her subsequent guilt about it.

In his "Dealing with the Hard Stuff" chapter, Fletcher's own recollection of a group of Blood Brothers (it never made his Marschfield Dreams memoir): "When I was a kid I had three best friends: Andy, Larry, Steve. Larry wanted the four of us to be blood brothers. He was always talking about it. 'All's you need is a little bubble of blood,' he said. 'We'll press our fingers together so the blood mixes. It's wicked simple.' We all agreed. and made a plan to do it first thing Saturday morning. The next day after school Larry was helping his cousin Owen tune up his car. Owen was a senior in high school. Larry and Owen had the car in the garage, the hood up, the engine running. The way I heard it, Owen was fiddling with the engine, when all of a sudden the flywheel spun off and cut Owen's head open. Blood gushed out everywhere. When Larry tried to stop the bleeding, he got his shirt and jeans coated with his cousin's blood. Owen died. Larry went to the funeral and we didn't see him for a couple days. His face was stone serious when he got on the school bus on Friday morning. I noticed that he was wearing a new pair of jeans and a clean white T-shirt. Next day the four of us played in the woods just like we always did on Saturday morning. Larry never said another word about us being blood brothers. And nobody else mentioned it, either." (pgs. 78-79)

Zachery Reeves says

I love this book and it helped me learn how to better my writing.

Donalyn says

Solid ideas for writing personal narratives, but I wonder if this is the sort of book that teachers like more than kids.

Cindy says

Written for middle school student. Great introduction to writing personal stories.

Becky Kondritz says

Short, easy to follow book. Some of the harsher comments about this book failed to take into account the audience--middle school students. In this respect, I think the book goes into an appropriate amount of depth in how to get started and key points of biographical writing. I would suggest it as a helpful suggestion for any students wishing to write about their lives. Super quick, easy read for adults.

Lauren Haynie says

It taught me a lot about how to write my own autobiography or memoir. It also taught me what is a good story and what is not. To write a good memoir you should only add some details of your life. This taught me a lot about how to write my own life story.

Charles says

This is targeted clearly toward younger writers, particularly gradeschoolers, and has an educational feel to it. Such readers might find it a 4 star read or better. I doubt most older or experienced writers would learn a lot from it but it was good to be reminded of some basic things about writing memoir. It's an easy read and entertaining.

Amanda Heck says

This was so incredibly helpful for me in thinking about writing my own autobiography/memoir. The tips, author interviews, examples, and genres were golden material.

Abd Abd says

Amazing

Jack Loughrey says

This was a very nice book that taught me alot of things like not to say mean things and being helpful.

Logan Nott says

This non-fiction novel written by Ralph Fletcher is a great source for memoir writers and I enjoyed it. The only downside was that Ralph was too much into giving tips than actually writing a story which hoped for more story that how to write a memoir. I know the title tells me why he gives tips but I would've enjoyed a bit more context into his life.
