

Scaffolding Suggestions for Helping Students Read Memoirs

STUDENTS' NEEDS	POSSIBLE SCAFFOLDS
<p>Analyze how individuals, ideas, and events develop and interact in the memoir:</p> <p>Needs support with connecting these elements to one another and to themes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use questions to help the student make these connections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How does what the people say and do connect to a theme or the author's purpose?</i> <i>Why do you think the author chose to recount this memory?</i> <i>How does a theme connect to the author's purpose and point of view?</i>
<p>Writing craft and structure:</p> <p>Needs help figuring out the structure, narrative elements, mood and tone, and specific techniques such as foreshadowing and flashback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the student understands what a flashback is and why authors use the technique. Ask the student to point to the place in the memoir where the flashback starts. <i>How does this use of flashback affect the memory?</i> Review the meaning and purpose of foreshadowing. Have the student find an example of foreshadowing in the text and explain how it prepares the reader for events and themes to come. Review the text structure of any memoir that the student had difficulty understanding and sorting through. Review narrative elements and ask the student to point out some that appear in the memoir and to explain how they support what the author is saying. Review narrative elements: events, rising action, conflicts, climax, people (major and minor), dialogue, inner thoughts
<p>Author's purpose and point of view and how these shape the memoir:</p> <p>Needs support in determining the purpose for writing about the memory and the significance of the memoir</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use these questions to help the student figure out the significance of a specific memoir and the author's purpose for writing it: <i>Why is this memoir significant to the author? To others in the text? Why did the author write about this memory? What was he/she trying to show readers?</i>
<p>Integrating themes and author's purpose across texts:</p> <p>Needs help finding common threads among memoirs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the student list the themes from two or three memoirs. Then have him circle those that are common to two or all three. Help the student identify common writing techniques, tones, or author's purposes, by inviting him to consider two memoirs by different authors. Help the student compare two people from two memoirs and look at their problem solving and decision making to see if they are similar.