

SIX WORD MEMOIR PROJECT

There's a literary legend that Ernest Hemingway was once challenged in a bar to write a story in only six words, a novel that would tell the whole story, and he wrote, 'For sale: baby shoes, never worn.' "

Rachel Fershleiser and *Smith Magazine* co-founder Larry Smith started a contest in which people wrote six-word stories of their own, as memoirs — then put hundreds of them into a new book, "Not Quite What I Was Planning: Six-Word Memoirs by Writers Famous and Obscure."

"I really believe everyone has a story," says Larry Smith, "and a lot of people are afraid to start telling their story, (saying things such as), 'Oh, I don't write for *The New Yorker*' or 'I'm not going to have a best-selling memoir.' But, with six words, anyone can start, and when we asked people to tell their story in six words, they came bursting through our doors."

More than 15,000 entries poured in from around the country, some filled with heart, others with happiness. Publisher Harper Perennial calls them "fascinating, hilarious, shocking, and moving."

Entries included the likes of "Adopted baby. Got pregnant. Instant family" and "Love annihilated thirty year age difference."

In the spirit of the "Six Word Memoir" the WGH Publications team decided to throw the idea out there and see what we would get in return. Many thanks go out to the English faculty that put the project to the seniors. The following pages are the collection of "memoirs" that we received.

Enjoy!

See you in NYC on Broadway!

-- Hilary Hapgood

Get like me. Wait. You can't!

-- Lisa Franks

Learned to dance in the rain.

-- Miss B

Dixie McLaughlin gave us:
Love of life, pain in butt!
Always loved animals more than people
My best friend, is a dove
Anime, Ramune; life couldn't be better
Stong love; my half sister, Starr

Julianne Johnson gave us:
The last chapter opens a bridge.
Eleven people squished under one roof
Small child. Medium height. Big heart.
First kiss takes your breath away
Homecoming. Prom. Wedding. Life. Kids.

Alysha-Shawntee' Scott gave us:

My life soars how about yours?
Little girl, inquiring teenager, soaring woman
Tremendous memories, countless more sweeping by.
Mother's treasure, father's mystery, brother's friend.

Samantha Hawkins gave us:

Lived, loved, made enemies, now graduating.
Singing loud, dancing funny, having fun
Snapping pictures, writing letters, making memories
Make new memories, remember the past
Making friendships last a life time.

Rachel Young gave us:

High school's over; Hello real world
Drama, Friends, Parties, Homework; High School
Sing, Dance, Live, Love, Laugh, Enjoy
Dream big; the sky's the limit
Memories captured by photo; miss you

Jacqueline Dagenais gave us:

Old photos are recipes for life.
Candles light the way through darkness.
Sisters scream at little creepy things.
Fancy dresses, flashy shoes, florid jewelry.
Parents crying, students rejoicing, graduation night.

Symantha Manda gave us:

Seventee years old, story still untold.
Live for tomorrow escape the past.
Crazy teachers never a dull moment.
What is important can't be seen
Late nights. Cliched fights. Best friends.

Mitchell Seawood gave us:

Down but certainly not out. Thanks!
Hopeless but you had my back.
You changed me, that's good though.
Taught me well, thanks for everything.
Hurt badly, worked hard, got scholarship!

Shanequa Battee gave us:

Slightly bruised by not easily broken
Life lessons learned, Wisdom is born
Four years long, Four times strong
Old Endings, New Beginnings. Bitter/Sweet.
Dad's gone, mom's strong. Thank God.

Chantelle Jones gave us:

Good Times. Bad Times. Ugly Times.
Good days will get you good grades.
Bad past, Decent present. Better future.
Being positive will equal a better future.
Being negative will equal failure.

Samantha Fink gave us:

Fight, work, perservered; Gained some notoriety
Clumsy girl succeed best-bruising applied.
Had the patience. Got the grades.
Nasty food yet brilliant minds.
Ultimate pizza equals college fees paid.

Gabrielle Dickey gave us:

Dad's hurt, Mom's fighting, Daughter prevails.
Laughing, crying, however, worth the tears.
Learn a lot, forget a lot.

Zach McGhee gave us:

Lots of friends, lots of memories.
Real world is beginning, I'm ready?
How did time go so fast.

Kristina Washington gave us:

Life is short. Chase your dreams.
Twelve years of school gone by.
Stress and pain. Memories are gained.

Shanikwa Finley gave us:

The future's ahead, no looking back
Listen, learn, understand and gain knowledge
Four years, now tears, what's next?
You're who you choose to be
Don't make the same mistakes twice

Cory Spencer gave us:

Live out the dreams you have.
Once a nerd always a nerd
Ready for the big challenge: Life
Dark life. School arrived. Graduation surprise
Good grade, great education, big checks

Shereyah Barnhart gave us:

Be all that you can be!
Asked to quiet down, spoke louder.
This is harder than it seems.
Remember, everything happens for a reason.
Attitude arrived. Grades surprise. Graduations arise.

Tonicia Anderson gave us:

Life is what you make it
Many value clothes, I value dignity
I live on the untraveled road
I live to love my lifestyle
Looked for answers, found new questions
I WAS, but now I AM
If you believe enough, it'll happen

Candace Jones gave us:

Chaos, extravaganza, frustration, determinations,
anticipation, success.
Senior year means freshman once again!
High school prepares one for college.
Positive outlooks make life much easier
Determination and focus equal success, duh!
The end means great new beginnings!

De'Avery Richardson gave us:

Four years. End of the road.
Is anything I do brand new?
Lots of girls. So many memories.
College bound. Who's coming with me?
Fell in love? Was it real?
Graduation. Next step in my life.
College? Who can stop me now?
Girls come and go. Nothing new.

James Tabor gave us:

Went from a child to Man
Years went by faster than wind
Hard times but successfully made it
New knowledge has expanded my mind
Thrown to a jungle, still survived
Built a legacy, through the wire
Future was cloudy, but now bright

Trisha McCauley gave us:

Four years spent, four years smarter.
Studied hard, paid attention, knowledge won.
Lots more work, lots more money.
Started off small, now I know all.
Opens the doors to one's future.

Mercedes McCall gave us:

Seniors beware of rocky road ahead
Remember good times and forget bad
Stayed positive although times got hard
My responsibilities come with a future
Made it, thanks to the drought.

Derick Stokes gave us:

Love, through thick and thin
Scared Kid, now a grown man
Drama, dragging me down like a weight
The throne is empty, awaiting opportunity
Wisdom grew as my horizons expanded

Marissa Smith gave us:

Live, decide, love, befriend - Life
Cherish old friends, welcome new friends
Live for the present, not future

Morgan Peters gave us:

First my graduation, then world domination
Fear the dark, fear the unknown
One life to live, keep going
Mother to daughter, heart to heart
To grow life? Plant a tree.

Courtney Wilson gave us:

Research never produces failure - just headaches.
Reached far, but never fell.
Everyday smiles never forget everyday people.
An extravagant girl is never lonely.
It's okay to explode with creativity.

Brittany Thornton gave us:

Childish mind to a mature mind.
Rainy days and some sunshine days.
Was in the dark found light
Graduate on time failed one time.
Success fame fortune proud of oneself.

Andrew Kamer gave us:

Need a boost? Go drink Starbucks.
Life gives you lemons, make lemonade
I believe we're going to state!
New school, new pool, new dynasty

Ariana Sanchez gave us:

High school lunches get you fat.
French, band - That's all I need.
Way too much drama in drama.
Gym and health, waste of time.

Zach McLeod gave us:

Waited 5 hours for Halo 3.
Got accepted to lots of colleges.
Rode Dragster at Cedar Point twice.
Decided to become a computer programmer.
Went to many sweet awesome concerts.

Daryle Harrison II gave us:

Looking good goes a long way
Your future is in your hands
Have fun now, suffer consequences later
Life, it is what it is

Katie Banks gave us:

18 and ready to leave home
Life is what you make it
Competition; what makes us keep going
Friendship can last a life time
Hot summers with friends; crazy nights

Jared Wazelle gave us:

Was a sophomore, got my license.
I was a freshman, made drumline.
Was a senior joined the U.S.M.C.
Found my future wife, Courtney Doll.
Met my best man Gino DeVengencie

Keith Neal gave us:

Waited for five hours for game
Waited five hours for another game
Laughed at friend dating crazy girl
Saw Dragonball, it sucked really bad
I'm going to go to YSU

Apré Davenport gave us:

Dream, strive persevere President Barack Obama.
Late nights, early mornings, new day.
Learn, live, laugh, love high school.
Raider Spirit, Raider Pride, Raider Dynasty