

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## *My Book of Memories*

### **Project Overview:**

It's time to write your 8<sup>th</sup> grade autobiography or book of memories. It will consist of your memories and thoughts from your life. You will be entering high school next year and this will be a project you can look back on to see where you came from and where you thought you were going. Your finished book will be due on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, however, you should begin now and work on it daily in order to complete it on time, without rushing. You will be given some class time each week to work on it.

### **Book Format:**

The final product will be presented in book form. It must be bound, not stapled. You can choose your binding format, for example, weaving your pages together with string, a three ring binder, or a spiral binding. Your cover may have drawings or pictures pasted on the outside cover, inside cover, and the spine if you wish.

### **Content:**

Your Book of Memories must include the following: 10 chapters, a table of contents, an epilogue, and an optional dedication page.

#### **Chapter 1: "Who Am I?"**

**Due: Tuesday, April 5**

Who are you? Where do you live? What are your life goals? How do you expect to reach those goals?

\*FIVE PARAGRAPH FORMAT

#### **Chapter 2: "Before I Was, There Were..."**

**Due: Friday, April 8**

Your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, older cousins and siblings, and anybody who may not be a relative but who has helped to pave the way for you and your family.

\*LETTER FORMAT

#### **Chapter 3: "Suddenly, I Became Me"**

**Due: Tuesday, April 12**

Earliest memories: people, places, events, all those cute things that you did when you were tiny, that your mother, father, grandparents, or guardians tell you about.

\*FIVE PARAGRAPH FORMAT

**Chapter 4: "School Bells"**

**Due: Friday, April 15**

Your earliest years in school - K through 3 - learning to read, special school programs, special teachers and special friends, favorite subject.

\*POETRY FORM - NARRATIVE

**Chapter 5: "I Grew Up Here"**

**Due: Tuesday, April 19**

Describe your town, neighborhood, rural community...where you are from

\*THREE PARAGRAPH FORMAT

**Chapter 6: "My First Boyfriend/Girlfriend"**

**Due: Thursday, April 21**

That first crush in elementary school.

\*FAVORITE ORIGINAL POEM FORMAT

If you didn't have one, you can choose the following subject instead...

**"Favorite Activities"**

Favorite activities at different times of life: childhood, early teen years, now.

\*FAVORITE ORIGINAL POEM FORMAT

**Chapter 7: "I Wish I Could See \_\_\_\_ Again"**

**Due: Tuesday, April 26**

Tell about a childhood friend that you have no contact with any more, but you would like to see again.

\*ANY FORMAT

**Chapter 8: "Middle School"**

**Due: Friday, April 29**

Fears, emotions, how you have changed, teachers, friends, activities, successes, heartbreaks.

\*LETTER FORMAT - LETTER TO YOURSELF WHEN YOU WERE IN KINDERGARTEN

**Chapter 9: "Let's Take a Vacation"**

**Due: Tuesday, May 3**

A memorable trip you took with family or friends or a trip you would like to take.

\*NARRATIVE POEM - 4 STANZAS

**Chapter 10: "High School Expectations"**

**Due: Friday, May 6**

What do you expect high school to be like? What are your fears? What are you looking forward to most? Where do you expect to be in 10 years?

\*FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY

**Then...**

Finishing touches and the epilogue (format of the choice):

Epilogue: “If I could change one thing about my character, I would...”

**Finished Book:**

Your Book of Memories should show creativity and thought, and the more thorough and creative you are in decorating your book cover, pages, and sections, the higher your grade will be. Possible ideas for decoration may include drawings, pictures, photographs, newspapers, or brochures. Any book that does not contain all 10 chapters, a table of contents, and an epilogue will receive a lower grade, regardless of how fancy it is. Any book that has been obviously “thrown together,” which demonstrates an extreme lack of effort, will not be graded.

All deadlines must be met on time. A point value and checklist will be given for each chapter assignment. Also included is a rubric for the finished book.

Your final project will be a major portion of your fourth quarter grade. I highly recommend you begin developing ideas without hesitation.

All SIX TRAITS must be visible within your writing. (See page 12 in your Write Source book to refresh your memory of these traits.)

Ideas  
Organization  
Voice  
Word Choice  
Sentence Fluency  
Conventions