

## Recommended Reading

### Memoir:

***Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott** if you are afraid to tell the truth about your gruesome mistakes

***Ava's Man* by Rick Bragg** if you want to figure out how to write the story of a family member

***Truth and Beauty* by Ann Patchet** if you want to write about a friendship

***Lit* by Mary Karr** if you want to write about overcoming addiction

***The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston** if you need to get creative (camouflage) about telling your family story

***A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers** if you don't want to sound like a crybaby.

***Don't Lets Go To The Dogs Tonight* by Alexandra Fuller** if you want to write about foreign cultures, dysfunctional families, and bigotry in an engaging, funny way.

***The Black Swan* by Anne Batterson** if you weren't an abused orphan raised in Somalia by Wolves. People with normal lives can write interesting stuff, too.

### Craft:

#### ***The Situation and the Story* by Vivian Gornick**

How does one pull from one's own boring, agitated self the truth-speaker who will tell the story a personal narrative needs to tell? That is the question *The Situation and the Story* asks—and answers.

#### ***The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White**

This book's unique tone, wit and charm have conveyed the principles of English style to millions of readers. Use the fourth edition of "the little book" to make a big impact with writing.

#### ***Thinking About Memoir* by Abigail Thomas**

This book is about the habit of writing as a way to keep track of what's going on in the front and the back of your mind. It inspires different ways for us to look at the moment we're in right now and will help would-be memoirists find their own "side door" into a subject.

### ***How to Write* by Richard Rhodes**

Uniquely fusing practical advice on writing with his own insights into the craft, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes constructs beautiful prose about the issues would-be writers are most afraid to articulate: How do I dare write? Where do I begin? What do I do with this story I have to tell that fills and breaks my heart?

### ***Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott**

"Thirty years ago my older brother, who was ten years old at the time, was trying to get a report on birds written that he'd had three months to write. It was due the next day. We were out at our family cabin in Bolinas, and he was at the kitchen table close to tears, surrounded by binder paper and pencils and unopened books on birds, immobilized by the hugeness of the task ahead. Then my father sat down beside him, put his arm around my brother's shoulder, and said, 'Bird by bird, buddy. Just take it bird by bird.'"

### ***Writing Down the Bones* by Natalie Goldberg**

A splendid combination of Zen wisdom and down-to-earth advice about writing. Wonderful collection of writing prompts.

### ***To Show And To Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction* by Phillip**

**Lopate.** How to establish the double perspective that will allow readers to participate vicariously in the experience as it was lived, while benefiting from the sophisticated wisdom of the author's adult self.

### **Motivation:**

***Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown.** How to be vulnerable, put yourself out there in the face of criticism, fail, pick yourself back up, and speak your truth.

### ***The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron**

The seminal book on the subject of creativity. An international bestseller, millions of readers have found it to be an invaluable guide to living the artist's life. No, you don't have to be a drunk to be a great writer.

## Story:

***The Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell*** This is what every single story on the planet is about. The more you understand what it is to be human, the better you write.