Remembering Through Reading: The Stories of My Life

“A library is a good place to go when you feel unhappy, for there, in a book, you may find encouragement and comfort. A library is a good place to go when you feel bewildered or undecided, for there, in a book, you may have your question answered. Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people - people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book.” E.B White

We all have a story to tell. Often we think of a life story or memoir as a chronology of events. However, knowing where to begin can become so overwhelming that we put off writing the story at all. This is an invitation to re-collect, record and share the stories from your life through the lens of reading. What picture books, novels, collections of poetry, songs, magazines, journals, fiction, non-fiction, science-fiction, historical-fiction played an important role in your life? How might writing about what we read give us a glimpse into who we were and who we have become? Please bring your own writing instruments to a safe environment where you will experiment with writing strategies using prompts, share your writing with others, and begin your collection of life-stories.

Commitment: Six weeks is a very short time! Participants are encouraged to commit to writing five times a week for a minimum of twenty minutes – prompts will be given. The more you write the more comfortable you will become as a writer - think of this as a “get fit” program.

Getting in Shape for this Course: You will be asked to begin listing all the books you have read (!) – those you remember, those you kept, those that linger happily and maybe not so happily in your memory. You have nothing to lose, and only to gain, if you begin this list now!

Schedule of Classes

Week One: Childhood Reading: Who I was

Week Two: The Teen Years: Who I was becoming

Week Three: The Adult Years : Who I am becoming

Week Four: My life in 12 texts: My book of the month club

Week Five: My Personal Library: What I choose to keep

Week Six: The One that Stands Out (and others left to read)