

Class One—Reading Highlights

1. The micro-memoir strives to combine the extreme abbreviation of poetry, the narrative tension of fiction, and the truth-telling of creative nonfiction
2. A micro-memoir is written in sentences, drawn from personal experience, and strives to create a world in as few words as possible
3. Micro-memoirs aren't slivers of a bigger creation
 - They are designed to stand alone
 - On a very small scale
 - Radically self-sufficient
4. What a micro-memoir *doesn't* say is part of the way it makes meaning
 - "Omission is a form of creation."—David Mamet
5. Consider your quirkiest memories
6. Consider memoirs that you retain without understanding why
 - Example: The night my dad drove my brother and I home from the hospital in Sindelfingen, Germany. My mother had had a gallbladder operation. Dad was taking care of us for the first time without mom. A cat jumped in front of the car. I thought he hit it. He would not stop on the dark and narrow road to see if it was alive.
 - **WHY** does this memory creep into my consciousness at the most inopportune times?
 - Perhaps writing about this in micro-memoir form I will excavate the why?
7. Something not mentioned by Beth Ann Fennelly, but quoted by Susan Orleans at the Des Moines Book Festival 2019: "The WHY is infinitely more interesting than the WHAT."