

# Six-Word Memoirs

One life. **Six words.** *What's yours?*

## **Famous:**

"Well, I thought it was funny."  
- Stephen Colbert

"Everyone reads what's in my diary."  
- Taylor Swift

## **Not so famous:**

"Took road less traveled.  
Retracing footsteps."

"I colored outside of the lines."  
"Fall often. Always get back up."

## **Six Tips for Six-Word Memoirs from Rachel Fershleiser:**

1. Be specific.
2. Be honest.
3. Forget the thesaurus.
4. Use your own speaking voice.
5. Experiment with structure. Two three-word sentences. Three two-word sentences. One statement or six separate ones. Repetition can be powerful and punctuation is our friend.
6. Stop trying so hard. Write carelessly; edit carefully. Throw a million ideas down and then decide. These aren't epic novels or Supreme Court decisions. Just start scribbling and see what catches your eye. In our experience, peoples' first instincts are usually the best.

## **Limitations force you to be creative.**

Write a great memoir **BECAUSE** of the parameter,  
not in spite of it.

## **Like any other piece of writing, make revisions.**

Put the six best words in the best order.