

Shortlists for Memoir:

To help you keep focused, print, trim, and post these shortlists by your computer screen.

Shortlist for Nonfiction—Keys for the Big Picture:

Who is your main **AUDIENCE**?

What is their **FELT NEED**?

What is your **PURPOSE** in writing?

What is /are the **INTEGRATING THEME /S** of the book?

What is the **BEST STRUCTURE** for the book?

What is the overall **PROMISE & TAKEAWAY** for the reader?

Shortlist for Memoir—Telling the Story:

*Include the **SHORTLIST** for **NONFICTION**.*

A good memoir addresses a **BIG PROBLEM**.

A biography is the story *about* a life; **A MEMOIR IS A STORY FROM A LIFE**.

Draw the reader into your **EMOTIONS**, especially in anything related to purpose and theme.

Readers want you to make meaning of the things that happen in life. So **REFLECT** as you write.

Be fair to others in the story and **TURN THE MIRROR ON YOURSELF**.

Remember **CHARACTER ARC**. Depict how you change and grow as a person.

Remember **STORY ARC**. Dramatically tell your factual story. Don't give a string of episodes.