

Memoir Close Reading

An Ordinary Man

As you read your memoir, you'll need to provide detailed observations about the author's stylistic choices.

Your notes should include the following:

- A brief summary of the excerpt's events
- Device & Quote Analysis
 - Identify the rhetorical/literary device in the section Write down a quote that exemplifies it
 - Explanation of significance in the story and overall effectiveness

Example Entry:

Amy Tan's "Fish Cheeks"

- **Symbolism**
- "For Christmas I prayed for this blond-haired boy, Robert, and a slim new American nose" (Tan)
- Within the first paragraph of the short essay, Tan is sharing with readers how important it felt to look "American" rather than Chinese. In her perspective, to look "American" meant to look like a white person. Instead of being proud of her features, she felt shame and wanted to change how she would look—likely to impress the blond-haired American boy, Robert. This shows readers the internal struggle she was experiencing at a young age, hoping to be like everyone else even though she looks different.

Sections to Read & Devices for *An Ordinary Man*

Section & Page #	Devices
Introduction pg. ix-xvi	Ethos, diction, logos, imagery, metaphor
Chapter 2 pg. 13-28	Logos, allusion (Biblical), imagery, tone
Chapter 5 pg. 72-83	Tone, metaphor, ethos, epithet
Chapter 6 pg. 95-98 & pg. 103-114	Tone, diction, foreshadowing, imagery
Chapter 9 pg. 156-164	Tone, imagery, characterization
Chapter 11 pg. 191-195 & 203-204	Tone, ethos, diction, pathos

When you finish your memoir, you will write a review of the effectiveness of the memoir.