

Educational guide prepared by [Greg Coleman](#), AP English teacher from Denton, Texas.

6-Word Memoir

Objective: to tell a story or an important idea that complicated within the confines of only six words

Background: Six-word memoirs recently became vogue when [SMITH Magazine](#) published the reader's own six-word memoir.

According to Smith Magazine's website:

"Legend has it that Hemingway was once challenged to write a story in only six words. His response? "For sale: baby shoes, never worn."

Starting in 2006, SMITH Magazine re-ignited the recountre by asking readers for their own six-word memoirs. They sent in short life stories in droves, from the bittersweet ("Cursed with cancer, blessed with friends") and poignant ("I still make coffee for two") to the inspirational ("Business school? Bah! Pop music? Hurrah")"

Directions:

1. Create a six-word memoir for yourself, adopting any tone you chose: humorous, serious, etc.
2. Create six-word memoirs for the five of the following characters from *Illegal*:
 - Nora
 - Mama
 - Flora
 - Keisha
 - Grandma
 - Papa
 - Mr. Mann
 - A character of your choosing
3. Choose one memoir created for *Illegal* and "publish" it. Take the on a single piece of paper. Decorate the "mini-poster" to reflect the character and the idea of the memoir. Present verbally to the class.