PURPOSE: To show, rather than tell, a reader about your self.
To build a foundation for further exploration: Where does one self end and another begin?
To explore the question, "How do you construct your identity?"

Up to now, the reading and my prompts have guided your blog. Now it's time to include your own life. Select "one specific event, located in one specific place" to write about. Please be sure it's an event that's interesting to a reader outside you, your immediate family and friends. Future semester assignments will expand from this launching point. (Quotes from Syllabus of Rosanne Gatto, reprinted with permission by Kristin Prevallet in "The Ambition of Rhetoric: Finding Poetry in Composition" from Poets on teaching: A sourcebook).

Term Definition:
What is Creative Nonfiction? by Lee Gutkind, excerpted from "What is Creative Nonfiction"

"Although it sounds a bit affected and presumptuous, “creative nonfiction” precisely describes what the form is all about. The word “creative” refers simply to the use of literary craft in presenting nonfiction—that is, factually accurate prose about real people and events—in a compelling, vivid manner. To put it another way, creative nonfiction writers do not make things up; they make ideas and information that already exist more interesting and, often, more accessible.

This general meaning of the term is basically acknowledged and accepted in the literary world; poets, fiction writers—the creative writing community in general—understand and accept the elements of creative nonfiction, although their individual interpretation of the genre’s boundaries may differ. The essential point to acknowledge here is that there are lines—real demarcation points between fiction, which is or can be mostly imagination; traditional nonfiction (journalism and scholarship), which is mostly information; and creative nonfiction, which presents or treats information using the tools of the fiction writer while maintaining allegiance to fact."

Samples of specific events in specific places from our reading:
The entire text of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks is a stellar example of Creative Nonfiction. Particular passages that are examples of the type of story you will write are found in:
   All of Chapter 6, "Lady's on the Phone" (6 pages).
   All of Chapter 9, "Turner Station" (9 pages)
   All of Chapter 21, "Night Doctors" (11 pages)
   All of Chapter 29, "A Village of Henriettas" (9 pages)

Assignment Parameters
You will create a 1000 - 1200 word prose essay about one specific incident in your life. This essay will have a distinct, identifiable mood, heightened by your choice of sensate descriptions, word selection, sentence length, and rhetoric. It is the foundation of building "one" self for your blog.
You will address some concept of self: either how you perceive yourself, or how others see you. **You must place this self within the world** and in some obvious, but skillfully graceful way, **integrate a larger issue** your prose. This issue should be readily identifiable to the reader.

You should use scene and summary. Include conflict and crisis as you build to a climax. Use dialogue, and strive to vary the narrative pace so the story doesn’t plod along in a “monotone.” You will consider the structure, that is to say, in what way does your story unfold?

Your intended audience is your class peers, other students, and potentially, readers of your blog outside the university.

**Assignment Process and Due Dates:**
1 - (If you already know what story to tell, you can skip down to #2.)

Select one of your "Tiny Masters" that, at this moment in time, seems very important to you. Be sure you choose something that accentuates one aspect of your identity.

Select one true event from your life that will show the reader that indeed you are an expert at that thing and that indeed this mastery is an extension of self.

For samples of this type of scenario, reread:
- "Deborah's Voice" (pg. 9 *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.*)
  Deborah was a "Tiny Master" at searching for her mother.

- Prologue, pgs. 4-6.
  Rebecca Skloot was a "Tiny Master" at seeking the truth about Henrietta Lacks.

2 - Consider structure as it relates to chronology and what I like to call "talk time." Will your story begin in the present and works its way back to the past? Will your story start at the beginning of the action and unfold in a straightforward path like time seems to naturally do? Will you create a series of flashbacks back and forth through time like the entire text of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*? Will you share the precious word count with other voices, or will you be the only voice?

3 - Create a structure map outline. Then create another one, using a different structure.

**THIS IS BLOG POST #5 DUE ON FEB. 13**

Here's an example:

**STRUCTURE SAMPLE 1**


**OR**

**STRUCTURE SAMPLE 2**

On swingset on first day of first grade. [CK describes.] Hears taunts from classmates. [other voices.] Flashback to 5th birthday. [parents' voices, happy birthday.] Describe flying leap off swingset when 5. Merge descriptions to when in first grade. [more first grade taunting voices]. Flashback to pain upon landing when 5. Get in car to go to hospital. [more first grade taunting voices] Jump off swingset in first grade. End in the air.

4 - Create a 100-150 word Author's Statement of Intent.

**THIS IS BLOG POST #6 DUE ON FEB. 17**

Articulate why telling this particular story is important to you and why it might matter to a reader who doesn't know you. Explain which writing techniques we've discussed so far will help you make this an effective piece of writing.
5 - Write a first draft.
THIS IS DUE, E-MAILED TO YOUR WRITING ADVOCATE, ON MONDAY FEB. 20, 5 P.M.

6- Write a second draft.
THIS IS DUE, E-MAILED TO YOUR WRITING ADVOCATE, ON FRIDAY, FEB. 24 BEFORE CLASS
Try using the other structure you outlined to tell the same story.

7 - Write the final draft. Be sure to edit for grammar, punctuation, spelling and syntax errors.
THIS IS DUE, POSTED ON YOUR BLOG, BEFORE CLASS BEGINS ON MON. FEB. 27

ASSESSMENT:
Value: 100 points

Grading will be based on:

Focus – Is this one, singular, compelling event that is of interest to others? Is there a discernible purpose to telling the story? What makes this worthwhile to a reader who doesn’t know you?

Depth – Have you placed this story within a larger context outside of yourself? Can the reader easily find a larger social issue that relates to some news event during your life? Do you have at least three areas with historical data like our sample stories?

Observation – Is the story alive with input from the five senses? Have you used the specific over the general in every sentence?

Voice – Does your personality show through with word choice and sentence structure? Is your vocabulary varied? Is your pacing consistent and forward moving? Do you begin quickly, build tension, and get out the minute the story is finished?

Format – Have you checked for spelling, grammar, and word usage errors? Did you turn in all the drafts on time?