

Portmanteaus & Six Word Memoirs

*Choosing specific, precise, and appropriate descriptors
of character, setting, emotion and theme*

Part 1: Portmanteau

A *portmanteau* is a word that is formed by combining two other words in order to synthesize meaning. For example, a *sharknado* combines sharks and tornadoes to create the most terrifying natural disaster you can imagine. Today you will create a portmanteau that will combine two words that best describe you. It's important to find two words that describe you well, but also blend together well to create an interesting-sounding word.

Begin by choosing ten adjectives/character traits that describe you. Make sure you know the meaning of the words. They should not be words that would describe most other seventh graders...your portmanteau is going to be unique!

Next, try combining your words in different ways. Try *at least 5* different combinations. Say each word to yourself. For each, ask yourself: is it natural and easy to pronounce? Does it sound unique? Avoid a combination that sounds like a familiar word. Make changes if needed, and decide which portmanteau best describes you.

Part 2: Six Word Memoir

A *memoir* is an *autobiographical* piece of writing that focuses on specific events, experiences, or themes in one's life. Today you will create a special kind of memoir that can only be six words long.

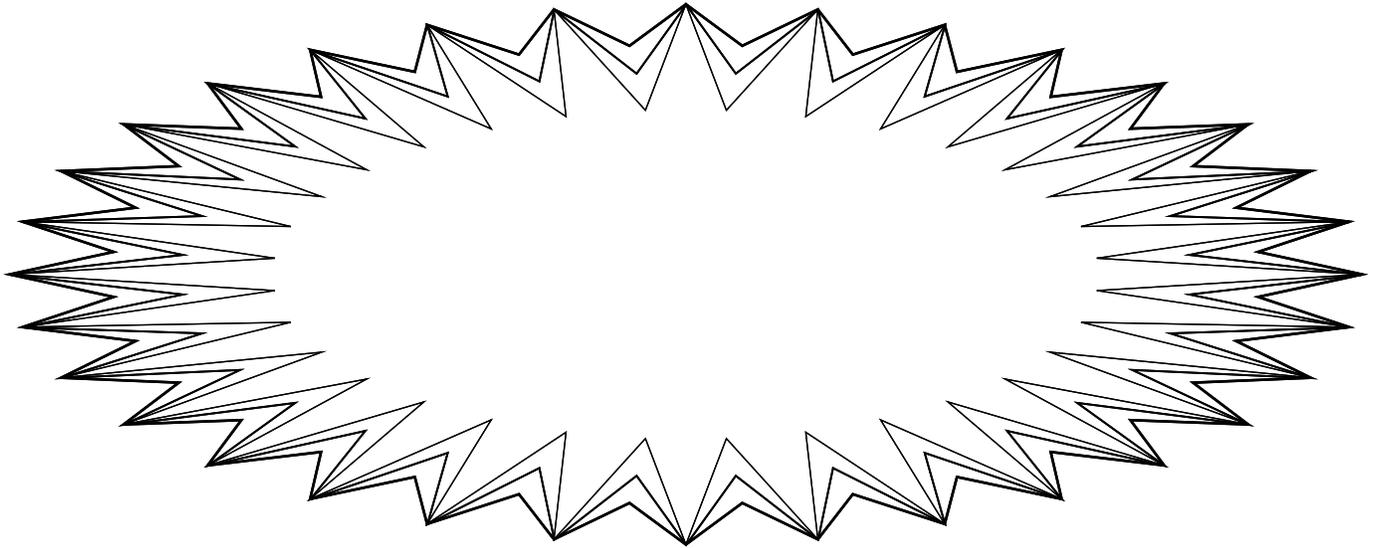
Begin by writing a short sentence that expresses some important feeling and/or idea about yourself. It can be about your whole life, the past year, your most recent summer, or just today. Work on the statement until it is only six words long.

As with the portmanteau, craft your six-word memoir carefully. You want a unique statement about yourself. Avoid clichés found in popular culture (songs, online posts, camp slogans, television, etc.). Definitely do *not* plagiarize another person's words.

Repeat the process. Write at least three different statements. Read each one to yourself; does it say something deep and meaningful? Is it unusual? Does it make sense? Make changes if needed, and decide which six-word statement best describes you.

Your HOMEWORK is to:

1. Select ONE portmanteau you invented and NEATLY fill out the certificate on the back of this page (top). You may add color, artwork, or anything else you feel will enhance the appearance of your portmanteau.
2. Select ONE six-word memoir you have carefully crafted and NEATLY fill out the certificate on the bottom of the back of this page. You may add color, artwork, or anything else you feel will enhance the appearance of your six-word memoir.



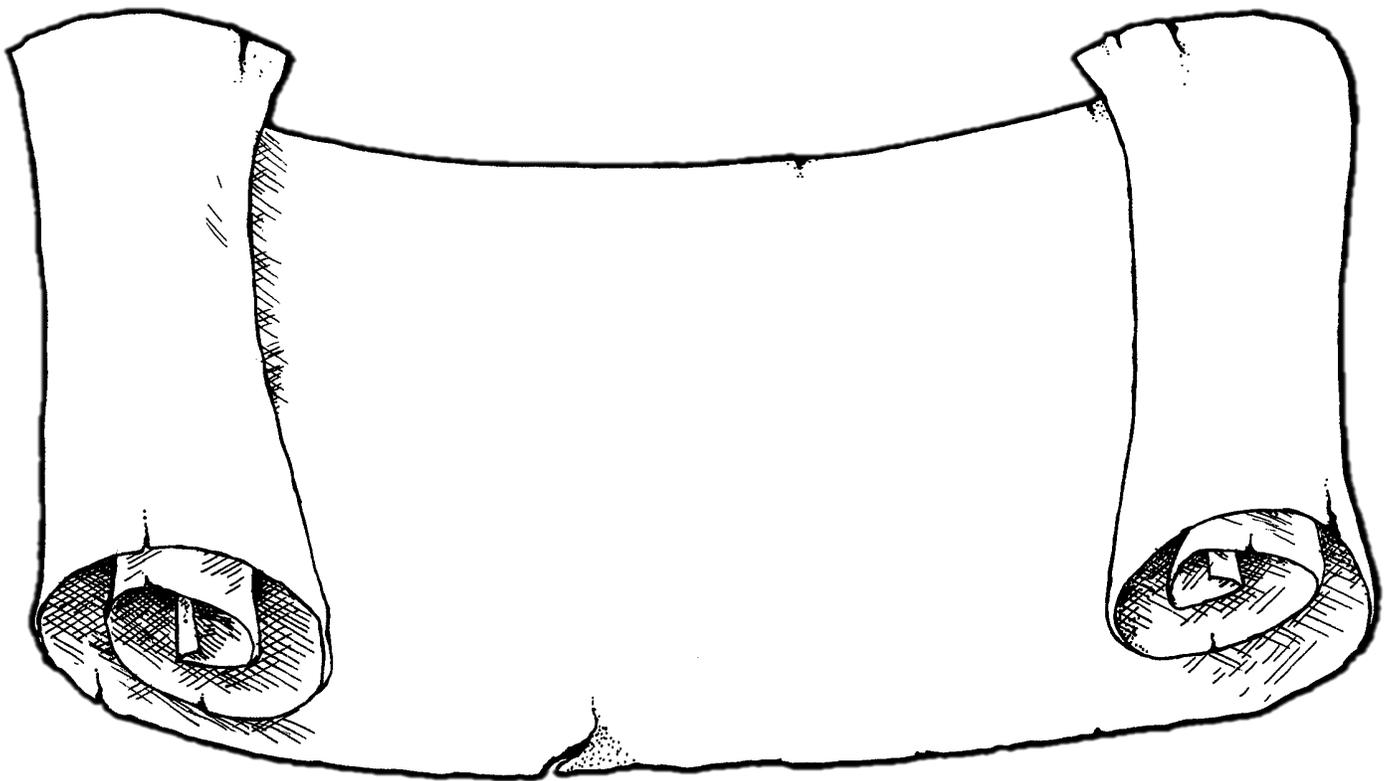
IS A COMBINATION OF THE WORDS

AND

IT DESCRIBES

PERFECTLY!

sign here



A six-word memoir by

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