

“Creative nonfiction merges the boundaries between literary art (fiction, poetry) and research nonfiction (statistical, fact-filled, run of the mill journalism).

It is writing composed of the real, or of facts, that employs the same literary devices as fiction such as setting, voice/tone, character development, etc. This makes it different (more “creative”) than standard nonfiction writing.”¹

Types:

Memoir:

“...a longer piece of creative nonfiction that delves into a writer’s personal experience” that is usually narrative.”²

Biography:

“... documenting of individual life histories (and, later, other forms of thematic historical narrative), considered as a genre of writing or social history.”³

Travel writing:

description of the places the author visits and their experiences; often written in narrative, diary, essay, or diary style.

Literary journalism:

“...uses literary practices to capture the scene/setting of the assignment or the persona of the person being interviewed.”⁴

Sources:

1. “Tutor Tips: Creative Writing,” *University of Vermont Writing Center*, accessed April 10, 2016, <https://www.uvm.edu/wid/writingcenter/tutortips/nonfiction.html>

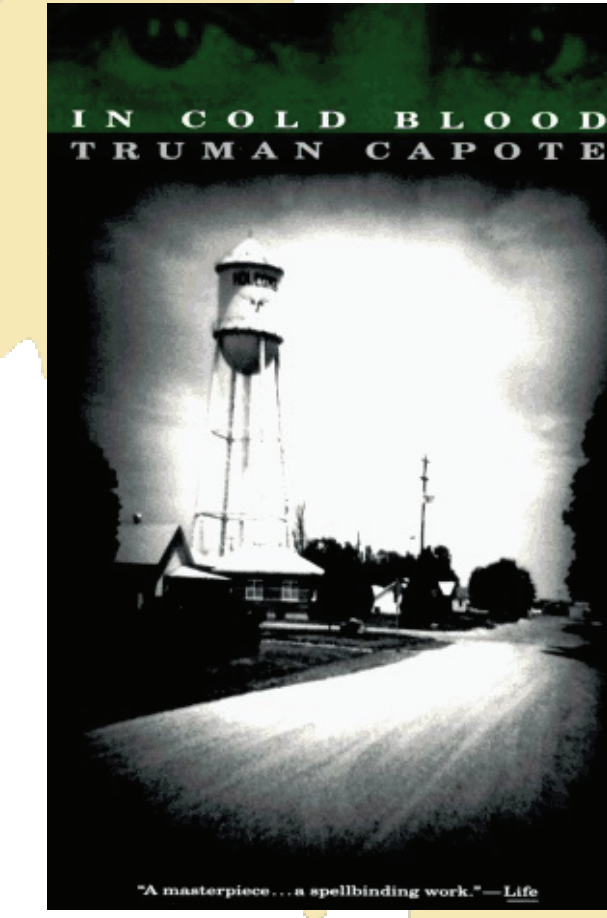
2. Ibid.

3. “biography, n.,” OED Online. *Oxford University Press*, March 2017, <http://www.oed.com.proxyiub.uits.iu.edu/view/Entry/19219?rskey=7wAsBa&result=1&isAdvanced=false>

4. See note 1 above.

5. Splatter icon created by Richard Alexander from the Noun Project

Examples:



<https://goo.gl/PE09As>

Capote reconstructs the November 15, 1959 murder and investigation in Holcomb, Kansas.

Not all creative nonfiction is the author’s personal experiences.

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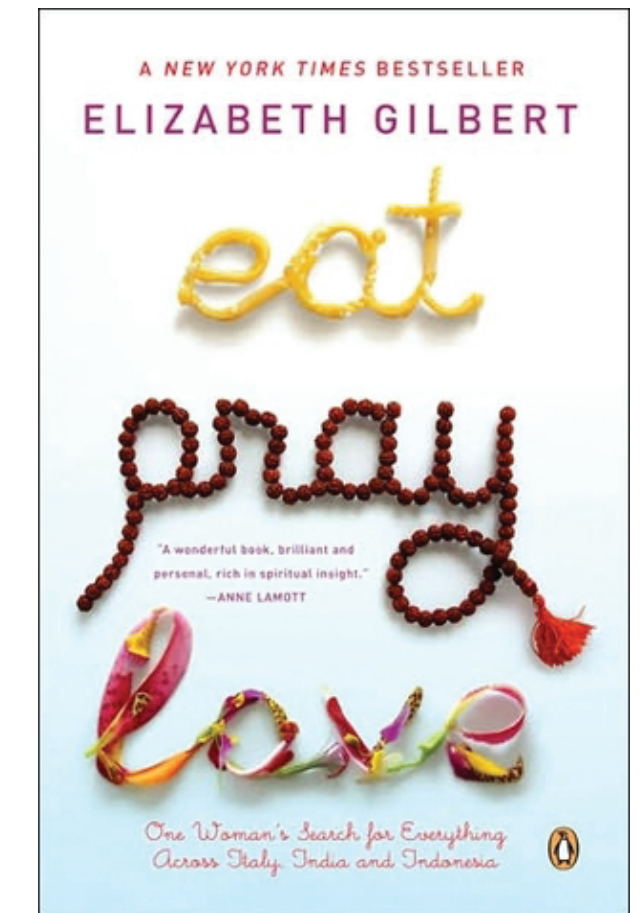
Keep It Real:



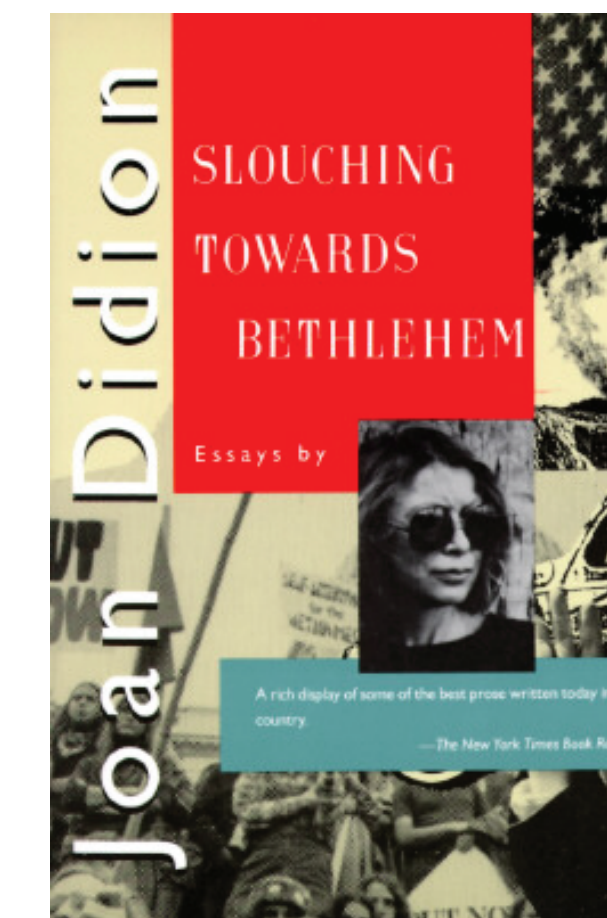
Creative Nonfiction

Gilbert’s memoir captures her trip around the world after her divorce and what she discovered during her travels.

Memoirs can be descriptions of one single event or moment in one’s life



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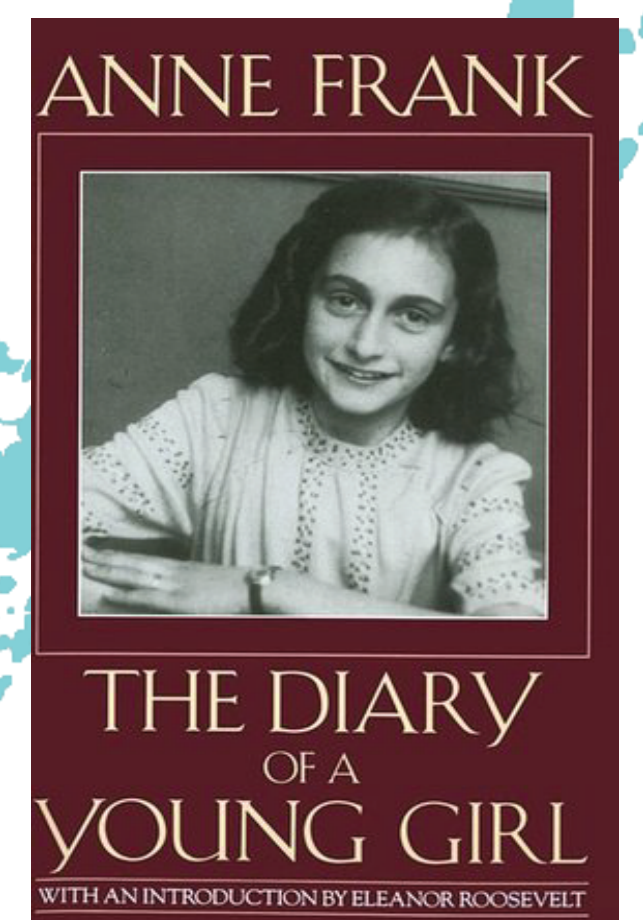
<https://goo.gl/zHXkk>

A collection of journalistic essays by Didion that describes her experiences in California in the 1960s.

Creative nonfiction is not limited by length.

This diary records Frank and her family hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam office building for two years.

Diaries record events chronologically and include not only personal experiences, but also current events.



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<https://goo.gl/7uR5Me>

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