**Ms. Fetbroth’s Important Book and Literary History**

Most everyone can remember a book that has had an impact on his or her life. Often this book is connected to a pleasurable experience. It could have been the first book you learned to read. It could have been a book that troubled you. An important book doesn’t necessarily have to be one you love. Think about your history as a reader. Remember a book that sticks out in your mind and complete the following:

**Title**: The Giving Tree

**Author**: Shel Silverstein

**Give two reasons why the book is important to you**:

1. My mother read this book to my siblings and I every night when we were growing up. Every night hearing my mother read to us was one of the most important parts of my childhood.

2. When my mom would read the last page, she would start to cry, every night without fail. I knew my mother wanted us to understand the message the book was sending—to be kind and selfless, to give to others and to appreciate what others give you. I have tried to live my life according to this message because of how much it meant to my mom.

Literary histories can often determine how we read and write. Our past reading experiences affect how we read and write right now. **List five positive or negative experiences you’ve had with reading or writing that affect the way you read and write today**.

1. My mother read to my siblings and I every night. She read many of the same stories over and over again to us, and those have become some of my favorite books of all time. The time we spent together reading was so important because it made reading more than just decoding words, it made reading an experience we all shared and grew from.

2. Every Sunday, my uncle, who was an English teacher, would give me a sonnet by Shakespeare to memorize and would tell me if I memorized it by the next Sunday, he would give me a banana split. I worked so hard to memorize those sonnets every week, and the experience taught me that reading can have some pretty sweet rewards.

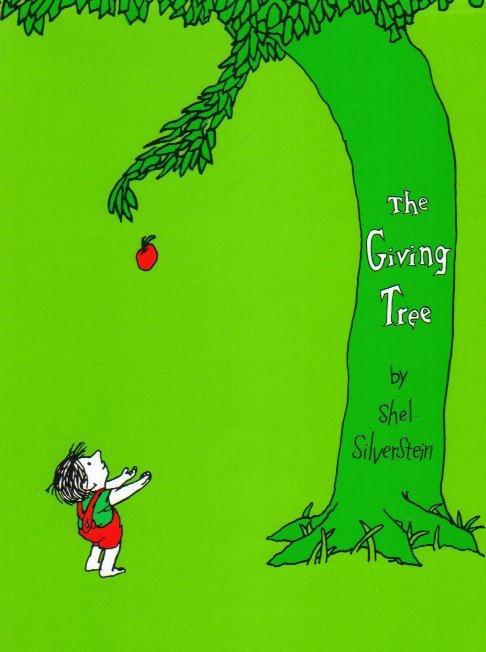
3. When I was in 5th grade, I was entered into the citywide spelling bee. I studied so hard for that spelling bee, but ended up losing on what I thought was a very easy word—twelve. I remember being so embarrassed, and never wanted to read or write again. Luckily, I got over it.

4. When I was in 8th grade, I was getting ready to pick my classes for high school and wanted to take a Creative Writing class. I asked my English teacher at the time if she thought I could handle taking Creative Writing on top of all my core classes and she told me that she didn’t think I could handle the extra work. I was really upset, and felt like I was not a good enough student. I didn’t take the class and ended up missing out because of it. So, the next year I promised not to let anyone make me feel like I couldn’t do something. I enrolled in Creative Writing on top of all my other classes and got straight As. I proved that teacher wrong!

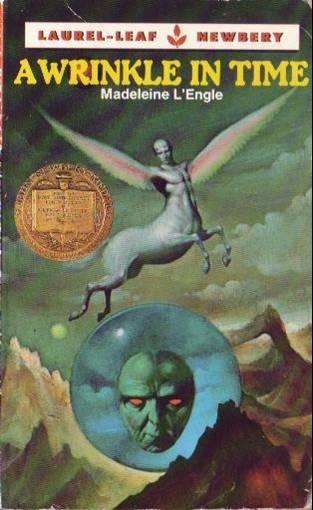
5. When I was a senior in high school, I was taking an AP English class. This class was very challenging, and involved us writing a big research paper on Shakespeare’s Hamlet. One day, we had to pick our topics out of a hat and I watched as all the other students got pretty easy topics like “flowers in Hamlet,” and “ghosts in Hamlet.” I thought this paper was going to be easy, but when it got to be my turn, I picked “existentialism in Hamlet.” Existentialism is no easy topic, and I couldn’t believe I had to write a paper on such a difficult thing. Instead of giving up, though, I worked so hard on that paper every day and night for 2 weeks, and when I got my paper back it was mark “A+, the first A+ I’ve ever given.”

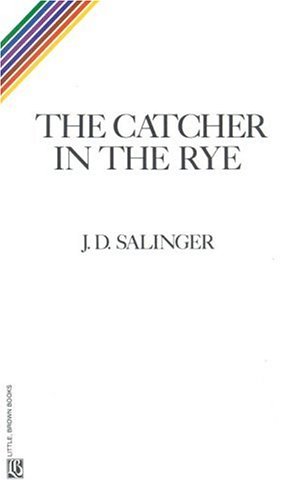
Ms. Fetbroth’s Literary History

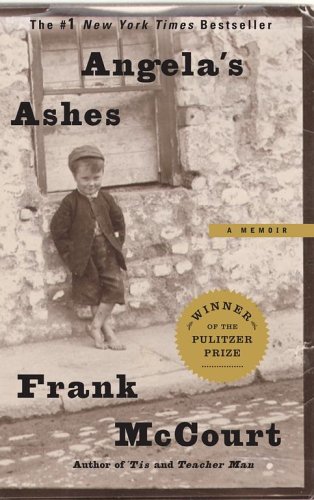
 I loved this book. My mother used to read it every night and cry. Whenever I think about it, I think about how loved I am.

 This book made me the person I am today. I will never forget how important it is to give to people.

 This book taught me about growing up, and helped me feel better about it.

 I can’t stand this book. It’s very famous and supposedly everyone should read it, but every time I tried to read this growing up I got confused and annoyed. I finally gave up!

 This is one of my favorite books of all time. There is literally no point to it, but that is why I love it. You can just read this book and enjoy it. You take away from it whatever you want.

 This book taught me how important it is to be thankful for what you have, because there are people all over the world struggling just to get by every day. The author is a beautiful writer and I love everything he writes.