This Boy’s Life Tobias Wolff

Resource kit and reading journal.

Build up your own resource kit. It needs to contain a collection of resources, including notes, pictures, diagrams, essays, drafts of your own personal writing, information about the 1950’s and 1960’s in America, and so on.

Your resource kit must contain a notebook to use as a reading journal and log, where—both at school and at home—you can jot down points to follow up, comments to expand on, things to do and spontaneous responses, including questions. This can be electronic. A small notebook for quick jottings is a good idea.

It is important to establish the habit of reflection early on as you read. As you brainstorm, reflect and write short responses. You are building a knowledge bank from which you will formulate an opinion on the text. Remember you are aiming to formulate your own text response.

To start with ask a librarian the following questions:

Who was Annette Funicello?
Who is Jack London?
Who is J.F.K.?
Who is Chekov?
Who is Ernest Hemingway?

Ask a librarian also to locate images, songs, car models and TV programmes from the 50’s and 60’s.

Begin your study by writing a few paragraphs in answer to the question ‘what is the role of a memoir?’ Should it be primarily truthful or entertaining?

Use some of the following words in your paragraphs:

faction, fiction, genre, metaphor, foreshadowing, themes, climax, autobiography, memoir, resolution, orientation.