**Cultural Traditions**

Like Amy Tan did with “Fish Cheeks” you are going to write a piece about our cultural traditions and celebrations in your family. What made “Fish Cheeks” so fun to read were the great images that Amy Tan gave us through her writing. You are going to use imagery in your memoir piece to give your readers the same sensory experience. Invite your readers to spend time with your family and take them there with your words. Think about a family event/tradition/food and write it in **My Topic**.

**My topic**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appealing to the Senses**

Sight Touch

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Hearing Taste

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Smell

**Memoir Piece 2**: “My Cultural Traditions”

Now that you have thought about your family’s event/tradition in terms of senses, it is time to put them together. Three of the boxes (Sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste) need to be included in your memoir piece. Use transition words and sentences to link the boxes together. Look at the example below to help you create your piece.

**Ms. Thorpe’s Example: Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Sight Smell**

When I opened the door to my Auntie Barb’s house I could smell the delicious blend of cooking turkey, garlic stuffing, and sweet, honey rolls.

The first person to greet me is my grandmother and as she tugs me in for an uncomfortably tight embrace the smell of her signature perfume intermingles with the tasty Thanksgiving scents that have filled the house.

My Auntie Barb makes the best pumpkin pie. I eyeball it sitting on the counter and I can’t help but lean in real close to inhale it’s sweet, pumpkin scent and buttery crust.

I couldn’t even see the dark wood of our kitchen table anymore. It was hidden by plates, dishes, and platters of steaming hot food. In the middle there was a giant, golden brown turkey just waiting to be carved. Scattered around it was an array of delicious sides. There was a bowl of mashed sweet potatoes that were a buttery orange and speckled with dark flecks of pecans. But, my favorite dish of all sat just within reach. Looking like tiny, half-moons and arranged perfectly on a ceramic platter were my grandma’s famous potato-cheese pierogis; a dish of sour cream waited alongside.

To put it all together I closed my eyes and thought about this past Thanksgiving. I thought about what happened in order (walking in, sitting down for dinner, having dessert) and that is how I wrote my memoir. I pulled from each sensory box to take my reader along with me. The transition words/sentences that I used to link my imagery sentences together are in **bold.**

When I opened the door to my Auntie Barb’s house I could smell the delicious blend of cooking turkey, garlic stuffing, and sweet, honey rolls. The first person to greet me is my grandmother and as she tugs me in for an uncomfortably tight embrace the smell of her signature perfume intermingles with the tasty Thanksgiving scents that have filled the house. **I am too nosey and I can’t help but peek into the dining room to get a glimpse of the meal we’ll soon be enjoying.** I couldn’t even see the dark wood of our kitchen table anymore. It was hidden by plates, dishes, and platters of steaming hot food. In the middle there was a giant, golden brown turkey just waiting to be carved. Scattered around it was an array of delicious sides. There was a bowl of mashed sweet potatoes that were a buttery orange and speckled with dark flecks of pecans. But, my favorite dish of all sat just within reach. Looking like tiny, half-moons and arranged perfectly on a ceramic platter were my grandma’s famous potato-cheese pierogis; a dish of sour cream waited alongside. **I couldn’t wait to dig in. Even though I eat too much at dinner, and I do every year, I still can’t help thinking about dessert!** My Auntie Barb makes the best pumpkin pie. I eyeball it sitting on the counter and I can’t help but lean in real close to inhale it’s sweet, pumpkin scent and buttery crust. **I finish off a big slice with creamy vanilla ice cream on the side and collapse on the fluffy couch for a much needed nap.**

Cultural Traditions memoir checklist:

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Includes imagery that allows the reader to feel as if they are part of the event/celebration

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Uses a minimum of three of the senses to add sensory details

\_\_\_\_\_\_ uses at least one other figurative language (highlight) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Is free of grammar and spelling errors