Definitions of memoir

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIRECTIONS: Read the following definitions of "memoir". Then complete the chart that follows with details from the two definitions.

Definition One:

"Unlike autobiography, which moves in a dutiful line from birth to fame, memoir narrows the lens, focusing on a time in the writer's life that was unusually vivid, such as childhood or adolescence, or that was framed by war or travel or public service or some other special circumstance."

SOURCE: *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir*, edited by William Zinsser

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Definition Two:

"A memoir is how one remembers one's own life, while an autobiography is history, requiring research, dates, facts double-checked."

SOURCE: *Palimpsest* by Gore Vidal

Memoir

Is, has, includes:	Is not, does not have or include: