



The Nature of History

Art mirrors life.

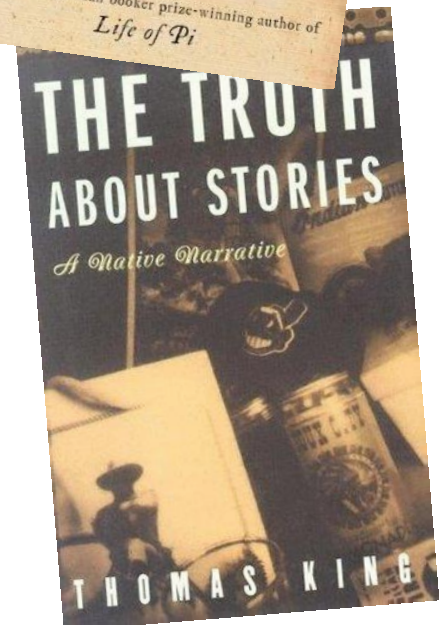
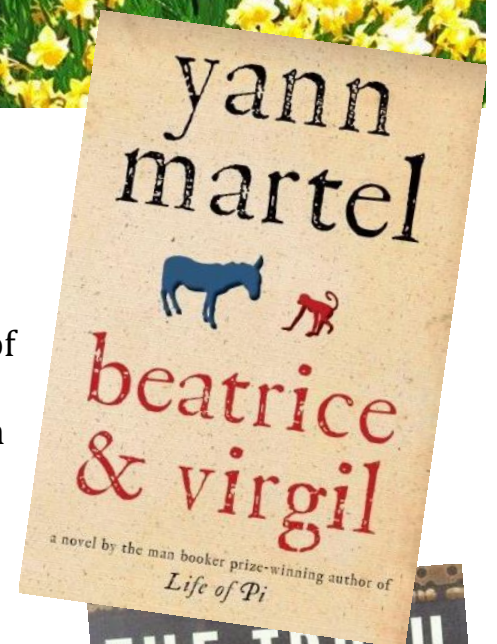
What does a movie like *Big Fish* tell us about the very nature of history? What does Canadian author Yann Martel or Potawatomi author Robin Wall Kimmerer say about history in their writing?

Looking at the ideas presented in our class – in at least 300 words – discuss the very nature of history, including the problems it might create for us as historians.

Put simply, I want you to tell me what you think history is, and what problems do historians face in studying it?

Some ideas to ponder . . .

- What is history? What is the origin of the world?
- Is it concrete (factual)?
- What do we do with history?
- What problems can history present us with?
- How does language impact our understanding of reality and history?



Resources available to you:

Passages from:

beatrice & virgil by Yann Martel
The Truth About Stories by Thomas King
1984 by George Orwell
Skippy Dies by Paul Murray
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Movies:

Memento (2000)
Big Fish (2003)

Ted Talks:

“The Danger of a Single Story” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

You **must** cite *Big Fish* in your answer, as well as at least two other sources.

Curriculum link:

Methods of Historical Inquiry and Communication

Overall Expectation Addressed:

- Interpret and analyse information gathered through research, employing concepts and approaches to historical inquiry



The Nature of History Rubric

	Below Expectations	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four
<p>Method of Historical Inquiry and Communication</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/10</p>	<p>The content does not reflect that the student understands the concepts this assignment was meant to highlight.</p>	<p>Student's paragraph does not clearly define or analyze what they see as the nature of history, nor does it cite ideas and concepts presented in other sources from the course. There is little evidence that ideas discussed in class and the text has influenced the student's approach to the subject of history.</p>	<p>Student's paragraph defines what they see as the nature of history, attempting to interpret and analyze ideas and concepts presented in <i>Memento</i> and 1-2 other sources presented in the course. There is some evidence that ideas discussed in class and the text have influenced the student's approach to the subject of history.</p>	<p>Student's paragraph successfully defines what they see as the nature of history, interpreting and analyzing ideas and concepts presented in <i>Memento</i> and other sources presented in the course. The ideas discussed in class and the text have influenced the student's approach to the subject of history.</p>	<p>Student's paragraph successfully defines what they see as the nature of history, interpreting and analyzing ideas and concepts presented in <i>Memento</i> and multiple other sources presented in the course, as well as outside examples from class discussions or their own personal experiences. The ideas discussed in class and the texts have influenced the student's approach to the subject of history.</p>
<p>Syntax</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/5</p>	<p>Syntax is not acceptable.</p>	<p>Syntax is not clear. Many spelling and grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Syntax is somewhat clear. Numerous spelling and grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Syntax is clear. 1-2 spelling and grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Syntax is clear and effective.</p>

