Activity #5

In 2008, a book entitled *Not Quite What I Was Planning: Six Word Memoirs by Writers Famous & Obscure* (edited by Smith Magazine) was published. This book is a compilation of hundreds of 6-word memoirs that were submitted to the book’s publisher. *Not Quite What I Was Planning* remained on The New York Times bestseller list for six weeks. This book demonstrates that:

- Everyone has a story to tell!
- It doesn’t take a lot of words to communicate emotion and ideas.

Through this activity, students should synthesize their learning by examining the power of word choice as they write six-word memoirs either on a chosen object from the exhibition or from their own lives.

Students’ writing should:

- Be concise. Emphasize that students should only use six words to express themselves.
- Convey tone. The reader should know the writer’s attitude toward the subject. Writing style can be informal or contain slang.

Students’ writing should:

- Utilize literary terms
- Describe personality/values
- Describe hobbies
- Refer to an experience or action
- Include strong verbs, adjectives, or specific nouns.

Once students have all completed their six-word memoirs, have students share with the rest of the class or post online where everyone can read each other’s work. Websites like Padlet can allow students to post their memoirs and read their classmates’ work as well.