

# BARTON

## LIBRARY

*Dare to Know*

### Fictional Autobiographies

*Works that present themselves as autobiographies but whose narrators and events are fictional.*

A genre in which fictive works imitate the conventions of autobiographies by depicting an openly imaginary protagonist, as he or she recounts a supposedly authentic retrospective narrative. By virtue of the genre's nature, the protagonists are always first-person narrators. In contrast to **autobiographical fiction**, fictional autobiographies relate the central character's life and describes their psychological, social, and moral experiences and development yet have no actual connection to the author's life. Fictional autobiographies are concerned most with the content of the story rather than the author. Thomas Mann's *Confessions of Felix Krull*, *Confidence Man* (1954) is a classic example.

#### Common Elements

Intense, private experiences
Family conflict
Sensory impressions

Narrator's emotional state
Techniques of fiction (introductions, transitions, exposition, and development)

#### Benefits of Reading

Allows readers to consider the possibilities of everyday life in an imagined setting
Encourages readers to reflect on their own experiences

Inspires readers to concede that one person does not represent one voice; thus, causing readers to consider their own voices
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#### Modern Literary Examples

<i>Born in Chechnya</i> (2013) by Olga McPhail
<i>Crew</i> (2016) by Joseph Kessel
<i>The Enlisted Men's Club</i> (2014) by Gary Reilly
<i>The Mindful President</i> (2021) by Glenn

Boyd Smith
<i>You Feel It Just Below the Ribs</i> (2021) by Jeffrey Carnor
<i>Your Father's Room</i> (201) by Michel Déon