Selected Bibliography of Contemporary Literary Nonfiction

compiled by Rebecca McClanahan (www.mcclanmuse.com)

(Note: Most of these authors have published more than one book; I've not listed all titles. Also, many of these books could have been placed in several categories. Some are book-length narratives; others are collections of independent or interrelated essays See separate list for suggested resource books and journals.)

ILLNESS/ACCIDENT/GRIEF
Harold Brodkey, This Wild Darkness: The Story of My Death
Anatole Broyard, Intoxicated by My Illness
Andre Dubus, Broken Vessels, Meditations from a Moving Chair
Michael Dorris, The Broken Cord
Lucy Grealy, Autobiography of a Face
Roger Kamenetz, Terre Infirma
Natalie Kusz, Road Song
Audre Lorde, The Cancer Journals
Nancy Mairs, Carnal Acts
Reynolds Price, A Whole New Life
Kathryn Rhett, Near Breathing
William Styron, Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness

FAMILY-CENTERED TEXT
Jane Bernstein, Loving Rachel
Mary Clearman Blew, All But the Waltz
J. D. Dolan, Phoenix: A Brother's Life
Vivian Gornick, Fierce Attachments
Susannah Lessard, The Architect of Desire: Beauty and Danger in the Stanford White Family
Lee Martin, Turning Bones
Sue Silverman, Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You
John Edgar Wideman, Brothers and Keepers

EXPERIMENTAL FORMS
James Agee and Walker Evans, Let Us Now Praise Famous Men
Dennis and Vicki Covington, Cleaving: The Story of a Marriage (collaboration)
Robin Hemley, Nola: A Memoir of Faith, Art, and Madness
Susanna Kaysen: Girl, Interrupted (case reports, forms, charts, memos w/narrative)
Donald Morrill, The Untouched Minutes
Richard Rodriguez, Days of Obligation (mosaic)
Art Spiegelman, Maus I and Maus II (combines text and cartoons)
Hunter S. Thompson, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas ("Gonzo" journalism)

PLACE/NATURE/SCIENCE
Wendell Berry, Recollected Essays, 1965-1980
Annie Dillard, Pilgrim at Tinker Creek; Teaching a Stone to Talk
Ivan Doig, This House of Sky
Gretel Ehrlich, The Solace of Open Spaces
Edward Hoagland, The Courage of Turtles
John Lane, Circling Home
William Least Heat Moon, Blue Highways
Barry Lopez, Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape
Joe Mackall, Plain Secrets: An Outsider Among the Amish
Mimi Schwartz, Good Neighbors, Bad Times: Echoes of My Father's German Village
Terry Tempest Williams, Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place

CHILDHOOD/COMING OF AGE
James Baldwin, Notes of a Native Son
Jo Ann Beard, The Boys of My Youth
Judith Ortiz Cofer: Silent Dancing: A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood
Frank Conroy, Stop-Time
Patricia Hampl, A Romantic Education
Mary McCarthy, Memories of a Catholic Girlhood
Frank McCourt, Angela's Ashes
Vladimir Nabokov, Speak, Memory
Richard Rodriguez, Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez
Tobias Wolff, This Boy's Life: A Memoir
Richard Wright, Black Boy

NEW JOURNALISM/HISTORY/EVENT
C.D.B. Bryan, Friendly Fire
Truman Capote, In Cold Blood
Joan Didion, Slouching Toward Bethlehem
Mikal Gilmore, Shot in the Heart
Melissa Fay Greene, Praying for Sheetrock
John Hersey, Hiroshima
Sebastian Junger, A Perfect Storm
Thomas Keneally, Schindler's List
Tracy Kidder, Among Schoolchildren and House
Jon Krakauer, Into Thin Air
Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble and Coming of Age in the Bronx
John McPhee, The John McPhee Reader
Randy Shilts, And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic
Norman Mailer, The Executioner's Song
Studs Terkel, Working
Emily White, Fast Girls: Teenage Tribes and the Myth of the Slut

HUMOR

Robert Benchley, Benchley Beside Himself
Dinty Moore, The Accidental Buddhist
S. J. Perelman, Most of the Most of S. J. Perelman
David Sedaris, Naked
James Thurber, My Life and Hard Times

PERSONAL AND LYRIC ESSAYS
M.F.K. Fisher, Among Friends
Adam Gopnick, Paris to the Moon
Steven Harvey, A Geometry of Lilies and Bound for Shady Grove
Judith Kitchen, Distance and Direction
Phillip Lopate, Against Joie de Vivre; Portrait of My Body
Rebecca McClanahan, The Riddle Song and Other Rememberings
Brenda Miller, Season of the Body
Lia Purpura, On Looking
Scott Russell Sanders, Secrets of the Universe; Staying Put
E. B. White, One Man's Meat
Virginia Woolf, Moments of Being; The Death of the Moth and Other Essays

JOURNALS/LETTERS
Genevieve Jurgensen, The Disappearance: A Primer of Loss
Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters on Cezanne; Letters to a Young Poet
May Sarton, Journal of a Solitude (or other journals)
Anne Truitt, Prospect: The Journal of an Artist

OCCUPATIONAL MEMOIRS/ESSAYS
Sylvia Ashton-Warner, Teacher
Ted Conover, Newjack: Guarding Sing-Sing
Atul Gawande, Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science
Thomas Lynch, The Undertaking
Oliver Sacks, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat
Richard Seltzer, Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery; Confessions of a Knife
Dustin Beall Smith, Key Grip: A Memoir of Endless Consequences