



## Cultural Autobiography Examples

### 1. An Immigrant's Autobiography: "The Warmth of Other Suns," Isabel Wilkerson

In her autobiography, Isabel Wilkerson reflects on the diverse cultural experiences of African American immigrants who moved to the South of the US. It explores the paths of people who became immigrants during the Great Migration from 1915 to 1970. *The Warmth of Other Suns* is not a typical personal autobiography. It tells the stories of three people who stepped on the immigrant journey and demonstrates the dramatic shifts in their native communities' cultures that resulted from this. The work of Isabel Wilkerson depicts the hopes, resilience, and challenges facing people who are seeking better lives outside of their native countries. It reflects how immigration makes people reshape their initial cultural identities.

### 2. A Native American's Autobiography: "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," Sherman Alexie

Sherman Alexie is a famous Native American writer. In *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, he shares a story of a young boy who comes from a poor, insulated Indian reservation. Though demonstrating the boy's journey, Alexie addresses big themes like culture, race, and identity. The book's main character, Junior, attends a high school outside of his reservation to pursue better opportunities in life. The author tells us about the challenges and



hardships Junior faces as a Native American in a regular US school and how he balances between the two very different worlds and cultures.

### **3. A Hispanic American's Autobiography: "The House on Mango Street," Sandra Cisneros**

The House on Mango Street is a non-standard autobiography. In her work, Sandra Cisneros provides us with a collection of short episodes from the life of a young Hispanic American girl living in Chicago. Cisneros tells us about the complexities of a young Latina growing up in a society with different cultural beliefs. Through the book, we see how her culture affects her individuality and dreams. We see it through reflections on the girl's family, neighborhood, and future aspirations. This autobiography shows both the hardships and the beauty of sharing two different cultures and the desire of the girl to break free from her culture's expectations and restrictions.

### **4. An Asian Immigrant's Autobiography: "The Joy Luck Club," Amy Tan**

The Joy Luck Club is an autobiography telling the story of a Chinese immigrant and their daughters growing up in America. In this piece, Amy Tan explores the cultural gap between an immigrant mother who was raised in Chinese traditions and their daughters who were born in the US and have their identities shaped by a different community. The stories shared in the novel depict the complexity of one's cultural identity and explore such topics as tradition, conflict between generations, and the experiences facing immigrants in America.



## 5. An African American's Autobiography: "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass,"

### Frederick Douglass

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass is an autobiography of a renowned abolitionist who used to be a slave in the South of the US. The story tells us about the experiences of a young boy growing up as a slave and the effects this has on his identity. In the book, Frederick Douglass explores the cultural norms of slavery, views of freedom, and the fight for equality. The work also explores the cultural hardships facing African Americans in the 19th century in America.