

Name:

Date:

**ANALYZE CRAFT AND STRUCTURE** ► **MEMOIR AND REFLECTIVE WRITING**

*from* **Blue Nines and Red Words**

Daniel Tammet

An **autobiography** is a type of nonfiction writing in which an author relates the important events and experiences from his or her own life. A **memoir** is a type of autobiography that focuses on a specific period in the author’s life or on an experience that holds particular significance for the author.

Memoirs often include **reflective writing**, in which an author expresses his or her thoughts and feelings after thinking about, or reflecting on, a subject or topic. Reflective writing can reveal what the author has learned from an experience, how the author feels about people in his or her life, how the author responds to conflict, and so on.

What readers learn about an author through reflective writing in a memoir can help reveal the author’s **central ideas**, or main points.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions about the excerpt from “Blue Nines and Red Words.”

1. \_\_\_\_ Which of the following is an example of **reflective writing** from the first paragraph of the selection?
  - a. The author reflects that Wednesdays and the number 9 are always blue.
  - b. The author reflects that he likes his birth date and explains why.
2. \_\_\_\_ Which of the following statements from the selection shows the author’s attitude toward numbers?
  - a. “Thinking of numbers helps me to become calm again.”
  - b. “The cube, or third power, of 51 is equivalent to  $51 \times 51 \times 51 = 132,651$ .”
3. \_\_\_\_ Why might the author have included the following example of **reflective writing**?

“...if the numbers don’t match my experience of them—if, for example, a shop sign’s price has ‘99 pence’ in red or green (instead of blue)—then I find that uncomfortable and irritating.”

  - a. to show that he can be impatient and can feel frustration like anyone else
  - b. to show that he experiences numbers in a way that is different from most people
4. \_\_\_\_ Which of the following is more likely one of the **central ideas** of the selection?
  - a. There are different ways to measure and express intelligence.
  - b. People who don’t know math well cannot appreciate math geniuses.