



141 Discovery Dr. Suite 213 | Bozeman, MT 59718 | gocmt.org

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT  
(AS ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED BY THE ALLENDER CENTER)**

*The Assignment:*

There are two things you need to complete and submit prior to your arrival:

1. Create a short list of five of the most significant events from your childhood. Consider especially those times when God has seemed absent. It may be a headline event such as the death of a parent or perhaps something that seems relatively insignificant like a comment by your uncle about your developing body. Small events, though seemingly minor, can symbolize many other tragedies and large events are things that you know to have significantly shaped your sense of being and your understanding of who you are. This list is meant to provide an illuminating window into your life.
2. Choose one of the events from your list and write a 600-1000 word story about the event. Please choose an event that marked your life uniquely through its pain. In response to the inevitable question of "why do I need to write a story about my pain?" please consider these words from Dan Allender's book *To Be Told*: "Our lives are filled with tragedy. But far more amazing, we live out our stories surrounded by an angelic host and a multitude of stories that serve to put our lives in context and give meaning to our heartaches....And it is in the midst of our tragedies, both past and present that we will see how the waters of suffering have cut our terrain and formed the contours of our character. More than anything else, tragedies shape our identity and our character." (p.74)
3. Return your assignment to [kate@gocmt.org](mailto:kate@gocmt.org) and [hannah@gocmt.org](mailto:hannah@gocmt.org) by the provided deadline; make sure to:
  - a. Include the list of 5 childhood events and your 600-1000 word essay in the one single document together.
  - b. Include your full name as a header within the document

(cont.)

- c. Return your assignment in a Word Document via email (we cannot accept mailed hard copies)
- d. PLEASE NOTE: Do not exceed the 1000 word limit on your written story. Any overage will result in your work being returned to you for editing. If ample time is not available for such, your writing will not be able to be read, edited, or reflected on by our workshop leaders in advance. This would be a significant loss to you and would dramatically impact your experience of our weekend together – thank you for adhering to the 1000 word limit and turning in your assignment by the due date.