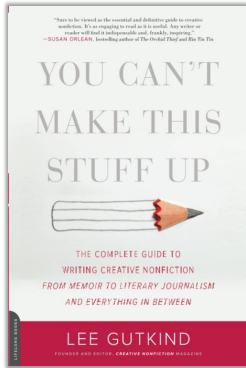
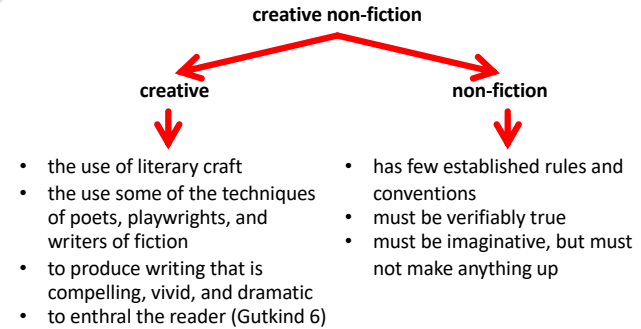


 **Writing Creative Non-Fiction and Memoir**

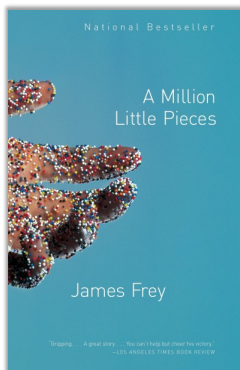


- Unit 1a:** What Is Creative Non-Fiction?
- Unit 1b:** The Truthfulness of CNF
- Unit 1c:** Ten Writing Recommendations
- Unit 2a:** Types of Creative Non-Fiction
- Unit 2b:** Research and Immersion
- Unit 2c:** Narrative and Narrators
- Unit 3a:** Reading and Readers
- Unit 3b:** Scenes
- Unit 3c:** Information
- Unit 4a:** Recreation and Reconstruction
- Unit 4b:** Hook, Frame, and Focus
- Unit 4c:** Revising Creative Non-Fiction

**From Unit 1**  **Creative Non-Fiction as a Hybrid Genre**

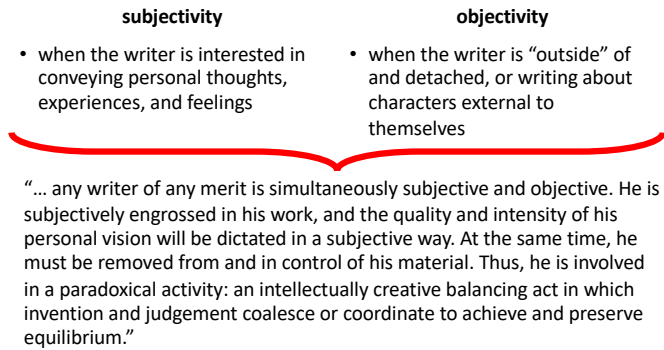


**James Frey, *A Million Little Pieces* (2003)**

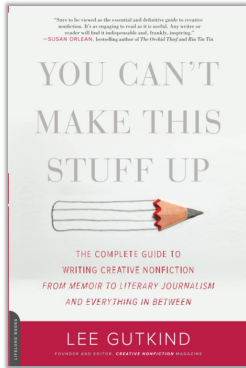


- memoir written by American author James Frey
- gives a raw account of his experiences as an alcoholic, drug addict, and imprisoned criminal
- so moved Oprah Winfrey that she featured it in her book club, making it a national bestseller
- revealed by an investigative Web site to contain numerous fabrications and exaggerations
- so damaged Frey's credibility that the book is now used as a cautionary tale (Gutkind 14-15)

**subjectivity vs objectivity**



## Techniques Affecting Truthfulness



- **composite characters:** creating a character who is based on two or more real people
- **compressed scenes:** squeezing together two or more scenes, events, or situations
- **manufactured dialogue:** recreating conversations to eliminate hesitations, deviations
- **changed names:** using a different name for a real person
- **fudging:** changing seemingly insignificant details for practical or aesthetic reasons (34-40)

## Author Biographies

### Fiona Tinwei Lam

- born in Scotland; based in Vancouver
- edited *The Bright Well*, a poetry anthology about facing cancer
- co-edited *Double Lives*, a creative non-fiction anthology about writing and motherhood
- “Play” first appeared in *Other Voices* (2006) (394, 401)

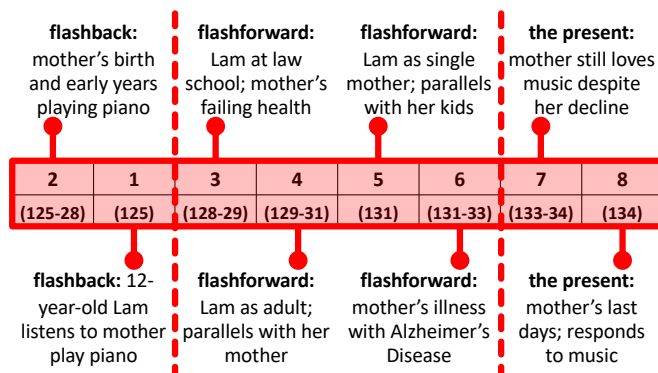
[www.fionalam.net](http://www.fionalam.net)

### M.A.C. Farrant

- prolific author of satirical and philosophical short fiction, memoir, drama, and other genres
- author of *The Secret Lives of Litterbugs*, a book of humorous essays
- book reviewer for the *Vancouver Sun*, and the *Globe and Mail*
- “We Keep the Party Going” first appeared in *Grain* (2002) (389-90, 401)

@macfarrant

## Fiona Tinwei Lam, “Play”



## M.A.C. Farrant, “We Keep the Party Going”



... I fell down the stairs and hit my head on a large metal trunk that my mother kept there, at the side. I cracked open my skull. The man next door heard my scream and called an ambulance. There was blood everywhere. They had to shave my head to operate, to put my skull back together. This was in Toronto, in 1920. No one thought I'd live. The newspapers carried the story. After the operation I was taken to a lecture hall. The doctor who operated on me wanted to show his students.... (147-48)

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