

## UNIT 2 Facing Challenges Nonfiction Connection

A STEM school

**FROEBEL**  
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



# THE TEACHER WHO CHANGED MY LIFE

WITH  
**JIM SOTO**

# SPEAK YOUR MIND

**Mentors.** At one moment or another, someone wiser and more experienced than us takes us under their wings and help us course correct our lives.

Who is someone who has taught you something important?

How did that person make a difference in your life?



# TRAGEDY IN GREECE

Nikos Gatzoyiannis (the author's real name), lived in a small village in Greece. His mother, Eleni, was killed for sending him and his sisters to join their father in America. Communist guerrillas tried to prevent the family from leaving Greece during the **Greek Civil War**. They imprisoned, tortured, and killed Nicholas's mother for trying to leave.



Year later, in America, with the encouragement of his junior-high school teacher, Miss Hurd, he received a scholarship to Boston university and later graduated from the Columbia university Graduate school of Journalism. As you read, think about, How did Miss Hurd's instructions to *"write about what happened to your family in Greece"* change his life?





My Memoir

One of

## LITERARY CONCEPT

### A memoir

Is a type of autobiography that focuses on one incident or period in the writer's life. Memoirs are often based on writers' reactions to historical events.

# LITERARY SKILL

**Topic:** Finding your talents

**Introduction:** Nicholas Gage, a young Greek refugee, arrives in America with his sisters.

**Body:**

**Conclusion:**

## Summarizing

The ability to summarize a piece of writing, or recap its main ideas or events in your own words, is important to a successful reading experience. As you read the excerpt from “The Teacher Who Changed My Life,” use a graphic organizer like this one to summarize each part of the selection.

# ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 118 -122, in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
  - **Memoirs** – Memoirs may explore writers' feelings about themselves as individuals and also their relations with other people. In what way does the memoir "The Teacher Who Changed My Life" fit into both these categories? How does Gage show a clear connection between his individual experience and its historical context?



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