

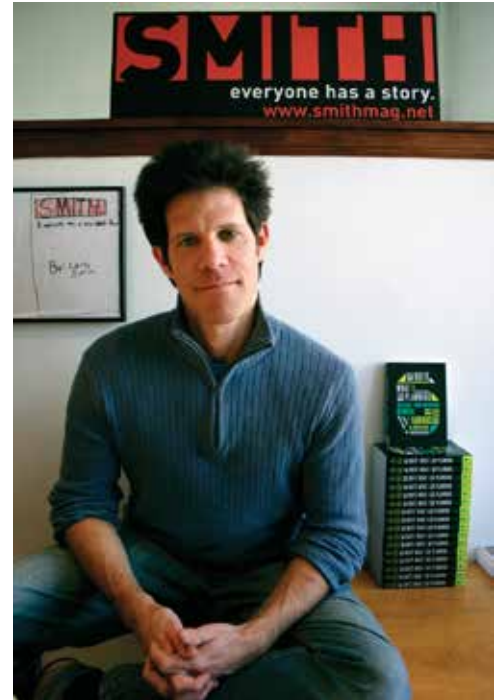


LARRY SMITH ENGAGES & INSPIRES STUDENTS

Called “On a quest to spark self-expression in everyone” by *Oprah Magazine*, Larry Smith is the founder of the Six-Word Memoir® project. In November 2006, Larry tweeted a simple question that has since been embraced by educators throughout the world: “Can you tell your life story in six words?” Now more than **1.5 million Six-Word Memoirs** have been shared on SixWordMemoirs.com, and countless more in **classrooms**, at festivals, around dinner tables, and anywhere people gather.

Larry’s talks are always fast-paced, interactive, fun, and can take a number of forms:

- An all-school assembly of 45-90 minutes
- One or a series of 20-40 minute classroom workshops for part or all of a school day, with Larry moving from class to class
- Staff development workshops



INSPIRATIONAL

Larry’s high-energy, interactive presentation will take students on a journey from the small-town pharmacy where his grandfather “Smitty” inspired a lifelong love of storytelling, to the creation of a narrative platform that can engage and inspire students of every grade level, subject, and learning ability. He’ll share some of his favorite Six-Word Memoirs, including examples from teens:

“Mom just revoked my creative license”

“Sorry, but I’m with the band.”

“Autistic brothers give the best hugs.”

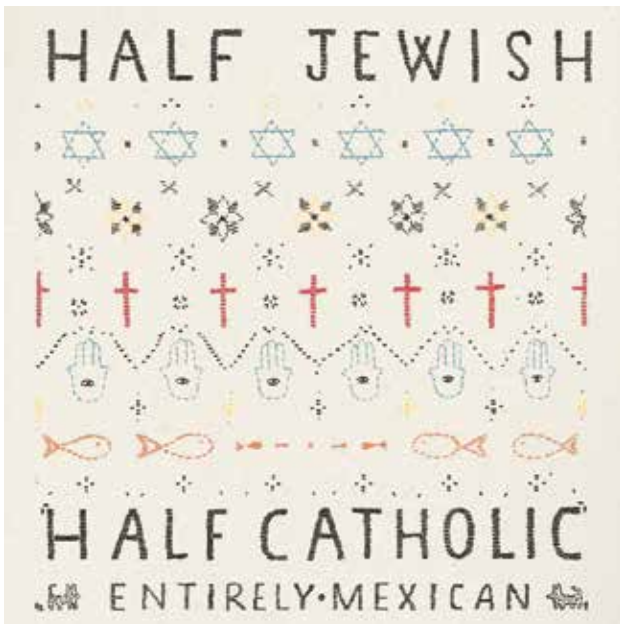
“I never got my Hogwarts letter.”

INTERACTIVE

As these brief stories emerge, students who hadn’t thought of themselves as “writers” will be inspired to realize they are. Classmates will learn about each other and form new bonds. Teachers will find ways to incorporate six words into their lessons. And everyone will have a simple, smart, game-like way of thinking about themselves and others.



Larry Smith chatting with students after a presentation. Keep up with Larry on Twitter @sixwords & @larrysmith.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY

Six Words Fresh Off the Boat: Stories of Immigration, Identity, and Coming to America, a collaboration with the TV series *Fresh Off the Boat*, offers hundreds of stories about American identity. As part of his presentation, Larry can share “coming to America” stories and prompt students to think about their own family history—whether they came to America recently or generations ago. As students share their stories, a near-instant camaraderie and understanding that we are indeed “all in this together” spreads throughout the room.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In just 45-90 minutes, Larry Smith will train your teachers to use a tool that they can immediately bring

to their classrooms. Six-Word Memoirs fits any lesson plan—whether you need an engaging warm-up activity, an effective transition activity, a memorable way to summarize a unit, or a sneakily effective way to get students to focus.

STARRING YOUR STUDENTS

“The Six in Schools” blog (see the top menu of SixWordMemoirs.com) is a place to download free Teacher’s Guides as well as read hundreds of posts that feature the work of a classroom exploring six-word storytelling in words, images, and video.

TEACHERS LOVE SIX WORDS & LARRY SMITH

“Larry’s connection with students was immediate; he had them thinking creatively, laughing, and sharing their own Six-Word Memoirs. Months after Larry Smith’s assembly, my students are still posting Six-Word Memoirs on a bulletin board that went up after his visit.”

—Beth Abramovitz, Columbus School for Girls, Ohio

“Larry blew our English teachers and student body away with class presentations on one visit, and on a second visit presented to a large assembly. The results were astounding. This mode of writing empowered even our shy students and emerging writers to find their voices and share their stories.”

—Carl Hall, Berkeley High School, CA

“Perhaps the greatest gift Larry imparted was that students felt their stories were important. He not only gave hundreds of kids a voice that day, he also gave them an ear. He listened to them. He celebrated them. He had photos taken of them with their memoirs. He published their writing. He gave students a way to be heard, and readers a chance to hear.”

—Sarah Bunger, Latin School of Chicago, IL

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