

Sarah Vowell--"Shooting Dad"

Paragraph range	Main Ideas/Main events	Content Summary / Description	Parts of Memoir	Modes	Time
1-2	When Vowell was growing up, she focused on the differences between her father and herself.	descriptions of house to show and set-up character differences between Vowell and her father; political differences via house and Constitution	opening scene, description and first look at "problem"	contrast, description, examples	distant past: teenager
3-7		contrasting anecdote and descriptions about being a musician/artist in a gunsmith's house	explanation of the problem	exposition, contrast, description, examples	distant past: pre-teen through adolescent years
8	Vowell's experience using guns. (Specifically, Vowell's first experience with a gun.)	humorous transition: aside/joke about Vowell potentially using family heirlooms against ex's			distant past
9-12		At six, their father takes Sarah and her twin sister Amy out to shoot a gun for the first time. Amy's experience and view is different than Sarah's.	explanation of the problem	narration, description, contrast, exposition	distant past: six years old
13		humorous transition about differences of view being allowed but not ignored.		example, contrast	distant past: teenage?
14-20	When he builds a cannon, she recognizes her chance to understand him better.	Vowell wants to figure out her father's fascination--to help make her a better daughter. Her father builds a replica cannon and she explains its importance and possible connection in his mind to history and their family specifically.	decision to solve the problem	exposition, description	recent past: adulthood
21-29	Vowell realizes she is more like her father than she thought.	Anecdote about Vowell and her father taking the cannon into the park and shooting it off. Hikers passing by help her realize the similarities she has with her father.	steps taken to solve the problem; realization (ah-ha moment)	narration, description, exposition, comparison	recent past: adulthood
30-31	Characteristics Vowell shares with her father.	Once Vowell starts thinking about it, she finds similarities between her father's hobbies and her own all along--even when she was younger.	reflection on resolution	exposition, comparison, examples	present/recent past
32-34	Vowell agrees to carry-out her father's last wish, when the time comes.	Her father's wish is to have his ashes shot out of the cannon on opening day of hunting season. Vowell commits to do this for her dad.	closing image/scene	description	future