

**Memory Boy**  
**By Will Weaver**

**Characters:**

**Miles Arthur Newell** - Main character, almost 16. He was 5'6", 136  $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, blue eyes and buzzed hair.

**Sarah Newell** - Miles' sister, age 12 going on 13.

**Natalie Newell** - Miles' mom. AKA "Nat." Small and intense.

**Arthur Newell** - Miles' dad, a jazz drummer.

**Mr. Worthing** - Math teacher.

**Nathan Dale Schmidt** - Kid from school

**Mr. Litzke** - Social studies teacher.

**Audrey Guilfoile** - Science teacher.

**Montroy Jones** - School counselor. Huge black guy. Spent time in prison, but then born again. Lots of bad tattoos.

**Dara Jamison** - Girl from science class. Very weird, always dressed in black and purple.

**Hans Kurz** - Miles' oral history "buddy" from the convalescent home, age 90. Had eyebrows as thick as squirrel tails.

**The Hofmeyers** - The nearest neighbors to the Newells.

**Chris Long** - Boy who hit Miles in the head with a baseball bat after striking out.

**Sherri** - Cashier at McDonald's.

**Dave** - Assistant Manager at McDonald's.

**Ethan Farrell** - One of Miles' friends.

**Dante Billings** - One of Miles' friends.

**Rick and Ruth Kleinke** - Squatters who had been at the Newell's cabin for about a year. Had 3 kids. From Chicago.

**Danny and Sheila Tolber** - Squatters at the Newell's cabin.

**Setting** - July 3, 2008. West suburban Minneapolis. And various places about 200 miles north of Minneapolis.

**Questions:**

- What fell from the sky for over 2 years? (Volcanic ash)
- What was Miles' supreme invention? ("Ali Princess")
- What was the name of Mr. Newell's old boat? ("Tonka Miss")
- What was the name of Mr. Newell's jazz band? (Shawnee Kingston Jazz Band)
- When did Mt. Rainier explode? (February 10, 2006)
- Who were some of the news anchors covering the explosion? (Peter Jennings, Joie Chen, Wolf Blitzer, Nancy Rodriguez and Dan Rather)
- How big was Mt. Rainier? (2.65 miles high and a base radius of 6 miles)
- How did Miles get the name "Memory Boy?" (As a child he was very good at a matching card game called Memory)

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- Where did Mr. Litzke's social studies class start their oral history projects? (Buena Vista Convalescent Home)
- What was Mr. Newell's job before the ash? (High school music teacher)
- What was Mrs. Newell's "vest?" (Backpack sewn under a smock that contained their money, papers. It made Mrs. Newell look pregnant.)
- How much did the Newells' breakfast cost at McDonald's? (\$92.50)
- Where was the log cabin? (Birch Bay on Gull Lake, about 140 miles north of Minneapolis. Had belonged to Miles' grandparents)
- How did Mr. Kurz almost die when he was younger? (Fell through ice while trapping beaver) What was the temperature that day? (30 degrees below zero)
- Why did they make ice picks ("Stabbers") from wood? (If you dropped them in the water, they would float)
- What did Miles dream of getting for graduation? (220-amp Sears welder with hood)
- What was Sarah's favorite stuffed animal? (White rabbit named Knuckles)
- What was the name of the National Guard camp they passed on their way north? (Camp Ripley)
- What was the water tower in the town of Rock Lake painted like? (A fishing bobber)
- How much did 4 sundaes at Dairy Queen cost? (\$32)
- What bad thing happened to the Newell family after they visited Dairy Queen? (They got hijacked by 6 thugs. But a sheriff in a green humvee scared them away)
- What did Mr. Kurz help Miles repair? (Skateboards)
- Where did Mr. Kurz fight in WWII? (Italy, France and Germany)
- Where did Mr. Kurz live for over 50 years? (By himself in a cabin on the Mississippi near Itasca Park) Why did he leave his cabin? (For his sister's funeral)
- What was the last thing Miles got from Mr. Kurz? (His ashes)
- What did Danny give to Miles? (Four ten shotgun)
- What did Sheila give to Sarah? (A goat named Emily)
- How much did it cost to stay at the Norway Beach Campground for one night? (\$100)
- What did Miles name the raft he made? (*Princess River Queen*)
- What was the sign that told Miles to go ashore and look for Mr. Kurz's cabin? (High bush cranberries)

