

"[W]henever an oral literature is taken out of its storytelling context and presented as a series of written paragraphs, its form and often its content and meaning can be radically altered" (771).

For Momaday, moving from the stories of oral storytellers to written texts involved creating his own pattern for the stories. "This process included Momaday's attempts to match specific Kiowa narratives of tribal or family origins (usually paragraph units of 100 to 280 words) with shorter passages in two other voices. One apparently objective voice recounts historical, anthropological, or factual information. The other voice is more private, subject and reflective, and recalls significant personal memories, especially from Momaday's childhood" (771).